





## Which Country Exports the Most Weapons?

The U.S. is the biggest weapons exporter, accounting for 40% of the total volume of international arms transfers between 2018–2022. Nearly one-fifth of these exports headed to Saudi Arabia, and other significant amounts went to Japan (8.6%) and Australia (8.4%). Below we rank the biggest weapons exporters by share of total volume traded in 2018–2022, as well as their growth or decline from trends recorded in 2013–2017.

| Rank | Country       | % share of global arms exports (2018-2022) | % change between 2013-17 & 2018-22 |
|------|---------------|--|------------------------------------|
| 1    | U.S.          | 40%  | +14%                               |
| 2    | Russia        | 16%  | -31%                               |
| 3    | France        | 11%  | +44%                               |
| 4    | China         | 5%   | -23%                               |
| 5    | Germany       | 4%   | -35%                               |
| 6    | Italy         | 4%   | +45%                               |
| 7    | UK            | 3%   | -35%                               |
| 8    | Spain         | 3%   | -4%                                |
| 9    | South Korea   | 2%   | +74%                               |
| 10   | Israel        | 2%   | -15%                               |
| N/A  | Rest of World | 9%   | N/A                                |

**The direct military sales by U.S. companies rose 48.6% to \$153.7 billion in fiscal 2022** from \$103 billion in fiscal 2021, while sales arranged through the U.S. government rose 49.1% to \$51.9 billion in 2022 from \$34.8 billion the prior year, the State Department said. **In 2022, the United States spent around 876.94 billion U.S. dollars on its military.** U.S. military spending has been increasing in current dollar terms since 2016. Spending increased dramatically in 2022 after the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

**The arms industry**, also known as the defense (or defence) industry, military industry, or the arms trade, is a global industry which manufactures and sells weapons and military technology. The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) estimated **military expenditures as of 2018 at \$1.822 trillion**. This represented a relative decline from 1990, when military expenditures made up 4% of world GDP. The combined arms-sales of the top 100 largest arms-producing companies and military services companies (excluding China) totaled \$420 billion in 2018, according to SIPRI.[2] This was 4.6 percent higher than sales in 2017 and marks the fourth consecutive year of growth in Top 100 arms sales. Many industrialized countries have a domestic arms industry to supply their own military forces. Some countries also have a substantial legal or illegal domestic trade in weapons for use by their own citizens, primarily for self-defense, hunting or sporting purposes. Illegal trade in small arms occurs in many countries and regions affected by political instability. The Small Arms Survey estimates that 875 million small arms circulate worldwide, produced by more than 1,000 companies from nearly 100 countries.

| Rank | Company name   | Defense Revenue (US\$ billions) | % of Total Revenue from Defense |
|------|--|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1    | Lockheed Martin  | 53.2                            | 89%                             |
| 2    | Boeing   | 33.5                            | 44%                             |
| 3    | Northrop Grumman   | 29.2                            | 86%                             |
| 4    | RTX Corporation  | 25.3                            | 87%                             |
| 5    | General Dynamics   | 24.5                            | 62%                             |
| 6    | Aviation Industry Corporation of China                       | 22.4                            | 34%                             |
| 7    | BAE Systems  | 22.2                            | 95%                             |
| 8    | China Electronics Technology Group                           | 15.0                            | 46%                             |
| 9    | Norinco  | 14.5                            | 22%                             |
| 10   | L3Harris Technologies  | 13.9                            | 77%                             |
| 11   | United Technologies (since April 2020 Raytheon Technologies) | 13.1                            | 17%                             |
| 12   | Leonardo S.p.A.  | 11.1                            | 72%                             |





## Gaza is a weapons lab for the arms industry w/Antony Loewenstein | The Chris Hedges Report

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Whether it's drone technology or the infamous Pegasus spy software, Israel has long developed and refined repressive technologies used by governments around the world by testing them on Palestinians. Antony Loewenstein, journalist and author of *The Palestine Laboratory: How Israel Exports the Technology of Occupation Around the World*, joins The Chris Hedges Report for a deep dive into the disturbing links between Israeli Apartheid, the arms industry, and global repression of civilian populations.

**The Palestinians are human laboratory rats to the Israeli military intelligence services and arms and technology industries.** Israel's drones, surveillance technology including spyware, facial recognition software and biometric gathering infrastructure, along with smart fences, experimental bombs, and AI-controlled machine guns are all tried out on the captive population in Gaza, often with lethal results. These weapons and technologies are then certified as "battle-tested" and sold around the world. Israel is the tenth largest arms dealer on the planet and sells its technology and weapons to an estimated 130 nations, including military dictatorships in Asia and Latin America.

Israeli weapons sales totaled \$12.5 billion last year. Its close relationship with these military internal security surveillance, intelligence gathering, and law enforcement agencies explains the fulsome support Israel's allies give to its genocidal campaign in Gaza. When Colombian president, Gustavo Petro refused to condemn the October 7 attack by Palestinian resistance groups as a terrorist attack and said, Terrorism is killing innocent children in Palestine, Israel immediately halted all sales of defense and security equipment to Columbia. This global cabal dedicated to permanent war and keeping its populations monitored and controlled has hundreds of billions of dollars a year in sales. These technologies are cementing into place a supernational, corporate totalitarianism, a world where populations are enslaved in ways that past totalitarian regimes could only imagine. It is not a far cry from Gaza to the camps and detention centers set up for migrants fleeing to Europe from Africa and the Middle East. It is not a far cry from the carpet bombing in Gaza to the endless wars in the Middle East and the global south. It is not a far cry from the anti-terrorism laws used to criminalize dissent in Israel to the anti-terrorism laws introduced in Europe and the US. Joining me to discuss this use of Palestinians as human Guinea pigs for the Israeli weapons and technology industry is Antony Loewenstein, author of *The Palestine Laboratory: How Israel Exports the Technology of Occupation Around the World*. So your book, which is a great read, lays out the rise of this arms industry, which originally was a state industry and then privatized. One of the points you made at the end of the book, which is very fascinating, is how much of the apparatus to keep the Palestinians under control is essentially now handed over to private firms. I want to quote Elliott Abrams, who I've interviewed, "The role of Israel is to serve as a model, an example in military might, in innovation, in encouraging child birth." This is one of the themes of your book that much of Israel's support and power derives from its connection to this global arms network. So let's lay out some of the innovations that Israel has pioneered. We can begin with Pegasus and drones. They're at the forefront of some of the most advanced technologies and weapon systems that are used to control subject populations. In some ways, the genesis of the book was partly due to some of the reporting around Pegasus a few years ago. Listeners or viewers will be aware that Pegasus is a spyware tool that is made by NSO Group, which is an Israeli company and it was started to be used about 15 or so years ago by a range of countries. And in fact, the country that it was first mostly used in was Mexico as various governments there were desperate to fight a failed drug war, and of course it only made the violence worse. But what's interesting back then and also now is Mexico remains, Chris, to this day, the world's biggest and most obsessive user of Pegasus. Obsessed. Whether it's the right-wing government or nominally left-wing government, Pegasus is now in dozens of countries; I don't even know how many, I think about 70, 80 or 90. In some ways, the reason I partly wrote the book was to say that the media was obsessed with Pegasus. Pegasus is an important investigation; It's a tool that is put on phones of activists and human rights workers in countless countries. And it breaches human rights. Obviously, that's terrible. But the problem was that it was too often framed as this rogue Israeli company





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**Authoritarian capitalism**, or illiberal capitalism, is an economic system in which a capitalist market economy exists alongside an authoritarian government. Related to and overlapping with state capitalism, a system in which the state undertakes commercial activity, authoritarian capitalism combines private property and the functioning of market forces with repression of dissent, restrictions on freedom of speech and either a lack of elections or an electoral system with a single dominant political party. Countries commonly referred to as being authoritarian capitalist states include China since the economic reforms, Hungary under Viktor Orbán, Russia under Vladimir Putin, Chile under Augusto Pinochet, Singapore under Lee Kuan Yew, and Turkey under Recep Tayyip Erdoğan as well as fascist regimes and military dictatorships during the Cold War. Nazi Germany has also been described as authoritarian capitalist,[4][5][6] especially for its privatization policy in the 1930s. Political scientists disagree on the long-run sustainability of authoritarian capitalism, with arguments both for and against the long-term viability of political repression alongside a capitalist free-market economic system.

**Antony Loewenstein:** I think Israel is, to me is a danger, not just to Palestinians, which is bad enough, but a model. I say finally, Chris, in the book that you often go to far right rallies, and I go there for work just to be clear, for work purposes in the US, Australia and elsewhere, the Israeli flag is a constant presence. It's not unusual. And these are not groups that traditionally like Jews. I mean they don't. I quote in the book Richard Spencer, that sort of hideous alt-right leader in America who said a few years ago, I'm a white Zionist. He doesn't like Jewish people, but he loves the idea of creating, for him and many like him a Christian ethno-nationalist state. And you've written a lot really incredibly important work on Christian theocracy in the US and its potential growth and rise in domination. Israel is a touchpoint as you would well know for many of these groups. Not all, but many. And it's not because lobbyist groups like Jews. Many of them do not. But they like what Israel is doing to Palestinians to unbelievably dominate and control them and proudly a Jewish chauvinist. They're Jewish supremacists. That's what they want to create for Christians in America or for example, Hindus in India. And that to me is the danger.

**Chris Hedges:** This is from your book according to Netanyahu, Jewish writer Peter Baynard explained, "The future belong not to liberalism as Obama defined it, tolerance, equal rights and the rule of law, but to **authoritarian capitalism**, governments that combined aggressive and often racist nationalism with economic and technological might. The future, Netanyahu implied would produce leaders who resembled not Obama but him." I think it fits in with what you said and unfortunately I fear, I don't know what you think that he's right.

**Antony Loewenstein:** I fear that too because it's worth saying that Obama wasn't exactly a big believer in- No, he wasn't. ... democracy and human rights either. But putting that issue aside, no, I fear that that is correct. And Netanyahu, I suspect as a leader possibly hasn't got a long life left as leader of Israel. It's obviously unclear because so many Israelis, even many who supported him are understandably incredibly angry with him after what happened on October 7th. So he may not last long as a leader himself, but I think his general analysis, I fear is correct, absolutely, that there is this sense of country after country, after country becoming enamored, not just with technological repression either from Israel or the US or others, but this idea somehow that you can maintain that domination forever.



## ***Gaza is a weapons lab for the arms industry***

w/*Antony Loewenstein | The Chris Hedges Report* [ . . ]

Listeners or viewers will be aware that Pegasus is a spyware tool that is made by NSO Group, which is an Israeli company and it was started to be used about 15 or so years ago by a range of countries. And in fact, the country that it was first mostly used in was Mexico as various governments there were desperate to fight a failed drug war, and of course it only made the violence worse. But what's interesting back then and also now is Mexico remains, Chris, to this day, the world's biggest and most obsessive user of Pegasus. Obsessed. Whether it's the right-wing government or nominally left-wing government, Pegasus is now in dozens of countries; I don't even know how many, I think about 70, 80 or 90. In some ways, the reason I partly wrote the book was to say that the media was obsessed with Pegasus. Pegasus is an important investigation; it's a tool that is put on phones of activists and human rights workers in countless countries. And it breaches human rights. Obviously, that's terrible. But the problem was that it was too often framed as this rogue Israeli company doing terrible things. As I show in the book, as you know, it's not that; it's essentially an arm of the state as Lockheed Martin and Raytheon are arms of the US government. Now, Lockheed Martin is a private company. It has a board, sure, and it makes profits or not. But essentially it's an arm of the state. Right? It's used by the government in various foreign policy agendas or goals. Pegasus is exactly the same. I started looking at that issue about saying that now probably, Israel is number one or two in the world for spyware and Pegasus and NSO Group in some ways are a smokescreen. Because there are so many other companies that are doing exactly the same thing. So if NSO Group goes bust tomorrow -- And it's in a bit of financial trouble at the moment -- It's not going to make any difference. There are so many other companies doing exactly the same thing using that whole allure of being able to spy on pretty much anybody, which is why to this day no country wants to regulate this, no country. They're all obsessed with it. That's been the fundamental problem at the moment. Explain how Pegasus works. And we should note that it was used also on Jamal Khashoggi's fiancée, Jamal, who I knew being the Saudi journalist who was dismembered in the Saudi embassy and a consulate in Turkey. But explain how it works. Pegasus is a silent tool. It can be installed on your iPhone or Android. It doesn't matter what phone you have. Years ago, a lot of us used to get random text messages. You'd click on the link, you'd forget about it, and you'd move on. That was the way it used to work. So country X or intelligence agency Y would have this tool, let's say, in India, in some other country. They would then send a message to this phone of an activist or human rights worker or a lawyer, that person would click on a link, their phone would be infected, and they wouldn't know. There's no way to know yourself without it being forensically checked. These days it doesn't even require a text message. All it requires is someone knowing your number. That's it. And it can access all your information. It can even access your phone and microphone when the phone is off. So it can be used as a weapon against you. As I show in the book, I interviewed huge amounts of people in Mexico and India and elsewhere. These are people often lawyers who are challenging the state. In Mexico, I interviewed a woman whose husband was murdered by, almost certainly, Narcos. Then after his death, her phone was being surveilled by the Mexican state. It's never entirely clear even to this day why in her case it was surveilled. But it shows that there is this utter obsession with various intelligence services to get access to all this personal information. It's important to note that one thing that really was clear in researching this particular tool is that Pegasus and tools like this have become -- And it was said to be in *The New York Times* a few years ago, and I questioned some of this in the book but two journalists wrote -- The most powerful weapon in the world since the invention of the nuclear bomb. Now, I would question that because nuclear bombs clearly can cause carnage, to put it mildly. Pegasus doesn't directly kill anybody per se, but what it does is it means that privacy is close to dead. At the moment there is this massive proliferation of these tools. Israel of course -- This is the key point -- Uses Pegasus and other tools as a key foreign policy agenda. I show in the book Netanyahu and Mossad, over the last decade, would go to countries where Israel had no close relations: Rwanda and India when Modi comes in. And others; Saudi, UAE. They hold Pegasus up as a diplomatic carrot saying, we will sell you this amazing tool which you can surveil your own citizens, whatever you want. But in return we would like you to vote in a certain way in the UN or buy certain weapons. That's how it works. I show a timeline when Netanyahu goes to Hungary to visit Orbán or Modi in India, and 6-12 months later, Pegasus is in use. This is not accidental. This is a key part of Israeli foreign policy now. Let's talk about the drone program. They pioneered drones. As I remember from the book, India is maybe their largest drone customer. These drones are used against migrants fleeing towards Europe, particularly Greece as well as the US-Mexico border. I have some interesting declassified documents from the '80s where Israel was using drones in its war in Lebanon.

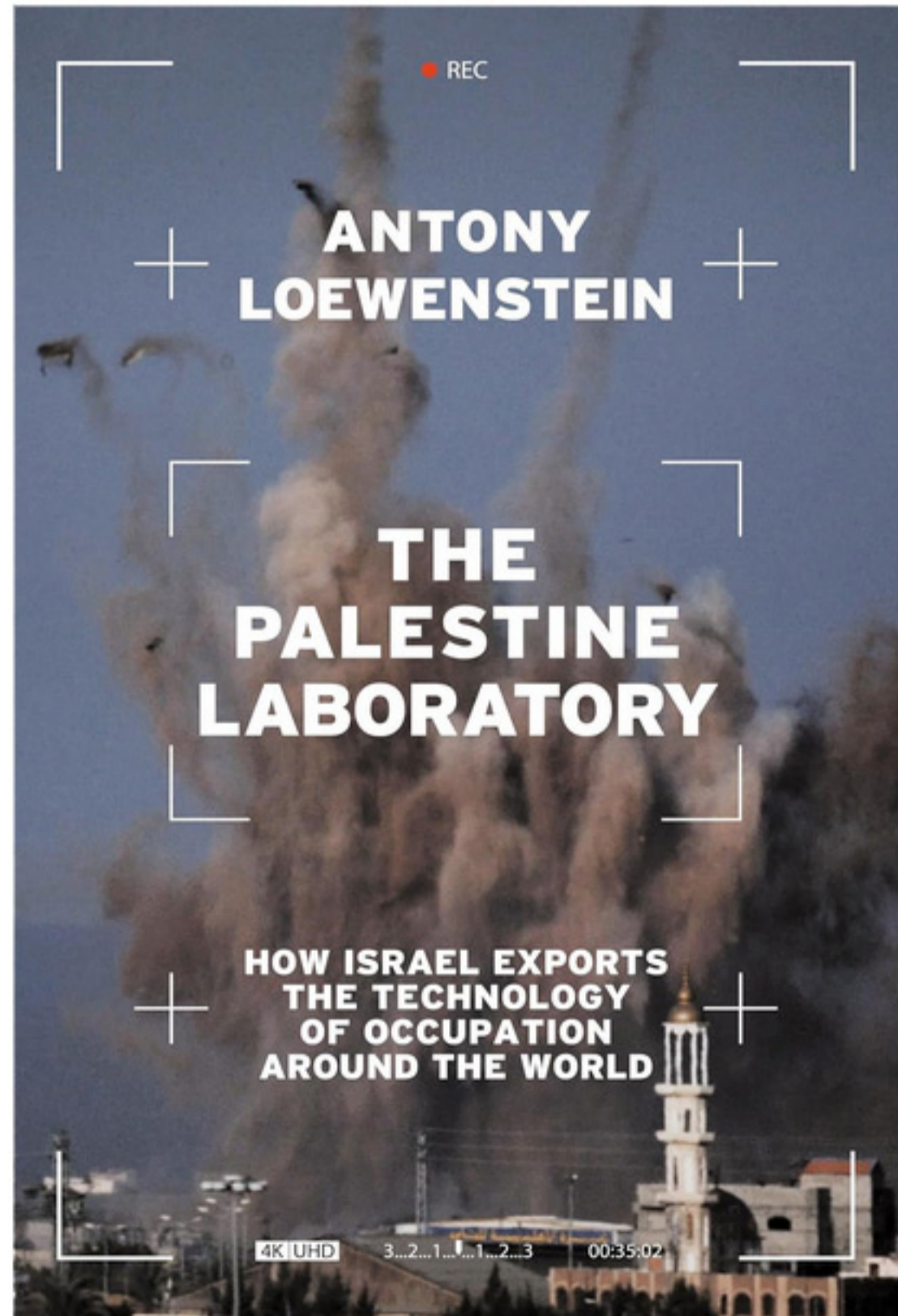
When Israel invaded Lebanon in 1982, it was before the digital era, but Israel was using drones. In this amazing document that I have in the book from the CIA they're shocked and amazed how incredible -- That's their words -- These drones are, how effective they are, and they wonder -- Back in the '80s -- How Israel will be a global pioneer of drones. Fast forward to the last decade or so, and as I show in the book, I have spent a lot of time in Gaza as a reporter in the last 15 or so years that there is a proliferation of testing of drones, particularly around Gaza. I'm putting aside what's happened since October 7, although it's happening since then too. But in the last 15 years huge amounts of drones are being tested above Gaza, some armed, some not, used in the various Israeli invasions, incursions, or whatever you want to call it in Gaza. Those drones are then called "battle-tested" and then they're sold to huge amounts of nations around the world. The part that shocked me the most was the use by the EU. The EU is buying Israeli drones. They're unarmed, yes. And viewers will be aware that in the last 10 or so years, there's been a huge influx of migrants coming from Africa and the Middle East, after 2015 when the Europeans said they didn't want to repeat that huge influx of people coming. Of course, if you're Ukrainian and white, they'll welcome you in. And I have no problem with Ukrainians being welcomed in. But clearly if you're black or brown, it's not going to be the same. So EU created this kind of fortress. Europe and Israeli drones are part of that. So Frontex, which is the European border force, uses Israeli drones 24/7 in the Mediterranean, circling the Mediterranean, sending back images, real-time images to Frontex, which is based in Warsaw, in Poland of what's happening. And the EU has made a clear decision to let people drown. That is obvious. They barely issue rescue boats. They criminalize people who are trying to rescue migrants. So Israeli drones are a key part of that infrastructure and eye in the sky essentially. And Israeli drones have appear, as you say, in India and various other countries. And now in the last years, Israel remains one of the key drone makers of the world, and indeed increasingly it is Turkey. Turkey makes a cheaper version of what Israel has been developing and therefore Turkish drones are now also appearing in many nations around the world in many conflicts. Let's talk about who Israel sells to. It's easier to tick off the list of who they don't sell to. I covered the conflicts in Guatemala and El Salvador in the 1980s. Israel was supplying weapons including napalm to the Salvadorans and the Guatemalans. They were of course one of the most fervent supporters of the apartheid regime in South Africa. They worked with Pinochet's Chile. The Rwandan genocide was perpetrated with Israeli weapons. They will just provide military equipment to the most heinous regimes, including the latest ethnic cleansing in Nagorno-Karabakh. So talk about there's just no... Except for, I think you mentioned three countries, Iran, North Korea, and I don't know who the other one was. I think I say Syria. Maybe Syria as far as we're aware. Right. As far as we're aware. [inaudible 00:14:31] As far as we're aware. Of course, it's interesting to note though, of course before 1979 and the Islamic Revolution, Israel and Iran were incredibly close. I mean the fact that Iran was run by a dictator was no impediment, of course, to selling weapons. And in fact, they were really worried that the rise of the Islamic Revolution would impede their sales, which clearly it did. Look, as you say, this was really... On the one hand probably I shouldn't have been that surprised. I mean, **it's important to note America remains the world's biggest arms dealer. 45%, 45% of the world's arms comes from America. So they are leaders by far. And as you say, Israel is 10th.** One of the things that shouldn't have shocked me, but I guess did was Myanmar in the last years obviously has been committing a genocide against its Rohingya population. Many of them have been killed, many have been kicked out into Bangladesh. Even after the UN found that Myanmar was committing genocide, Israel was still selling surveillance and weapons to the Myanmar regime. As you say, it's hard to list. There's so many of them. I think it's also worth saying that India... And India is actually a really big focus of the book because India is now the world's biggest country population wise, the world's biggest self-described democracy. Although I would very much question that. A key ally of the US and certainly my country, Australia and most western nations, because it's not China. India is building a Hindu fundamental estate under Modi, a proudly chauvinist nation where particularly Muslims are discriminated against openly. There's pogroms against Muslims. Now, India and Israel didn't really have a great relationship before Modi came in. There was a relationship in decades past. Modi comes in 2014 as Prime Minister and there's a love affair between Netanyahu and Modi. There's this image that some viewers may have seen of the two of them kind of stepping into the beach, getting their feet wet, talking about how much they love each other, who knows. No audio was recorded. But this relationship is central I think to.... In some ways actually why I wrote the book, that there is a growing global ethno-nationalist surge. India being the most obvious example of nations that proudly discriminate against non-majority populations. So in India it's against Hindus, against Muslims. In Israel, of course it's Jews against anyone who's not Jewish. And I say this as someone who's Jewish myself, the whole alliance between Israel and India reminds me very



# The Palestine Laboratory: How Israel Exports the Technology of Occupation Around the World

Hardcover – May 23, 2023

by [Antony Loewenstein](#) (Author)



Israel's military industrial complex uses the occupied, Palestinian territories as a testing ground for weaponry and surveillance technology that they then export around the world to despots and democracies. For more than 50 years, occupation of the West Bank and Gaza has given the Israeli state invaluable experience in controlling an "enemy" population, the Palestinians. It's here that they have perfected the architecture of control. Best-selling journalist Antony Loewenstein, author of *Disaster Capitalism*, uncovers this largely hidden world in a global investigation with secret documents, revealing interviews and on-the-ground reporting. This book shows in-depth, for the first time, how Palestine has become the perfect laboratory for the Israeli military-techno complex: surveillance, home demolitions, indefinite incarceration and brutality to the hi-tech tools that drive the 'Start-up Nation'. From the Pegasus software that hacked Jeff Bezos' and Jamal Khashoggi's phones, the weapons sold to the Myanmar army that has murdered thousands of Rohingyas and drones used by the European Union to monitor refugees in the Mediterranean who are left to drown. Israel has become a global leader in spying technology and defence hardware that fuels the globe's most brutal conflicts. As ethno-nationalism grows in the 21st century, Israel has built the ultimate model.

**Antony Loewenstein** (born 1974) is an Australian-German freelance investigative journalist, author, and film-maker. Loewenstein co-founded the Independent Australian Jewish Voices (IAJV). He won the 2019 Jerusalem (Al Quds) Peace Prize, one of Australia's leading peace awards, for his work on Israel/Palestine. In 2021, he co-founded Declassified Australia with fellow journalist Peter Cronau. The news website critically reports on Australia's relations with the world. He and UK film-maker Dan Davies co-directed the Al Jazeera documentary *Under the Cover of Covid*.

In 2023, he released the book, *The Palestine Laboratory: How Israel Exports The Technology Of Occupation Around The World*, in the UK, US and Australia with multiple, translated editions to come. It was a long-list finalist in the 2023 Moore Prize For Human Rights Writing, a best-selling book in New Zealand and acclaimed across the world. When, in November 2023, Loewenstein was awarded, in partnership with Banki Haddock Fiora, the Walkley Book Award for Longform Journalism for the book, judges commented that it was; "Hard to imagine a more timely exposé of the policies, weaponry and technology - from hacking software to drones and even 3G mapping - that the Israeli government has deployed against Palestine, and which countries, democratic and dictatorial, around the world have bought, adopted and adapted. Deep, solid research. Fairly written - not a polemic. Brave independent journalism at its finest, backed by a small committed publishing house."



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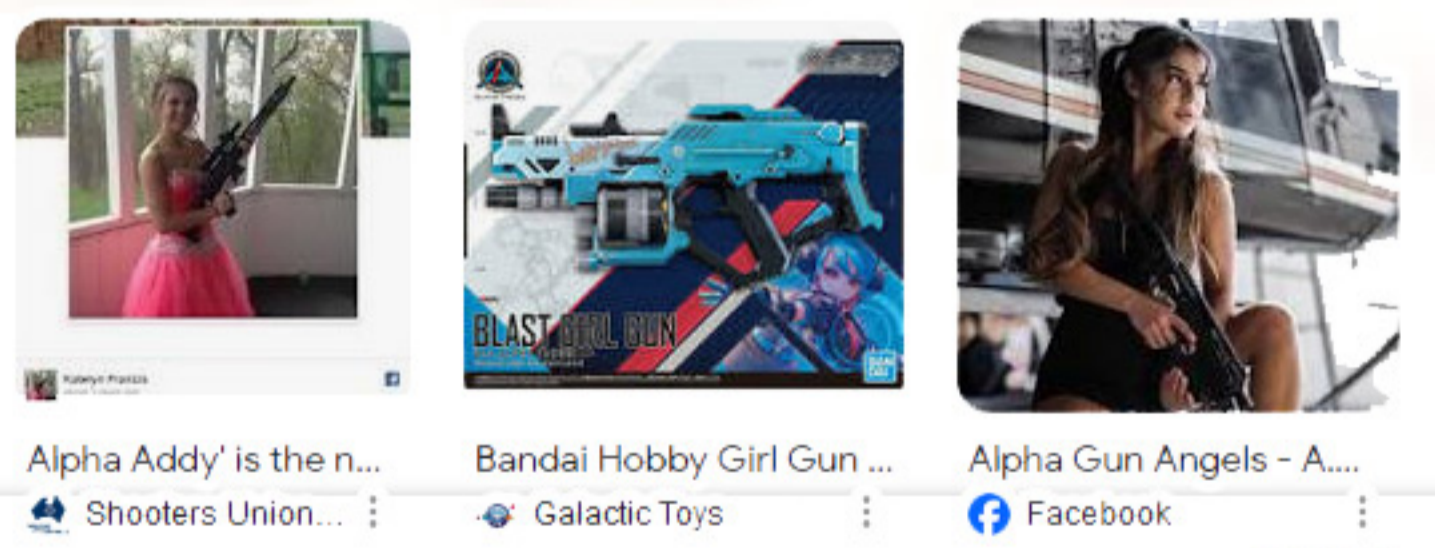
# Alpha Gun Girl

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## Gaza is a weapons lab for the arms industry w/Antony Loewenstein | The Chris Hedges Report [ . . . ]

**24:48** > Yes. Well, there is a side industry, I guess you could call it, of Israeli women, Jewish women who are... Often they've been in the military. They have fetishized or sexualized the Israeli military. So you have these groups of women who are scantily clad, often holding guns, often posing in photo shoots as if they're kind of in war in Gaza or somewhere else as an idea and a way to show two things. One, the IDF is female friendly. You can be an incredibly sexy woman and still be in the IDF and kill Palestinians. That's the implication. And secondly, that Israeli women are cool. I mean, that's the message they're trying to send. I don't know if it's particularly effective, but that's the message they're trying to send. And for years, I've been following this story that there's been a real push by the IDF Israeli army to show how gender friendly they are, how in fact gay friendly they are, how trans friendly they are, by how vegan friendly they are. I mean, we sort of laugh in a way by saying this, but I have a big section in the book talking about this is such a key part of Israeli messaging. [ . . . ] these women over the last years are traveling around Israel and the world promoting an image of Israel as liberal, but also militaristic. Pro-feminist, but also gun friendly. And that's why a lot of pro-gun groups in the US and mostly men, let's be honest, are into these kinds of sexualization of Israeli gun-wielding women.



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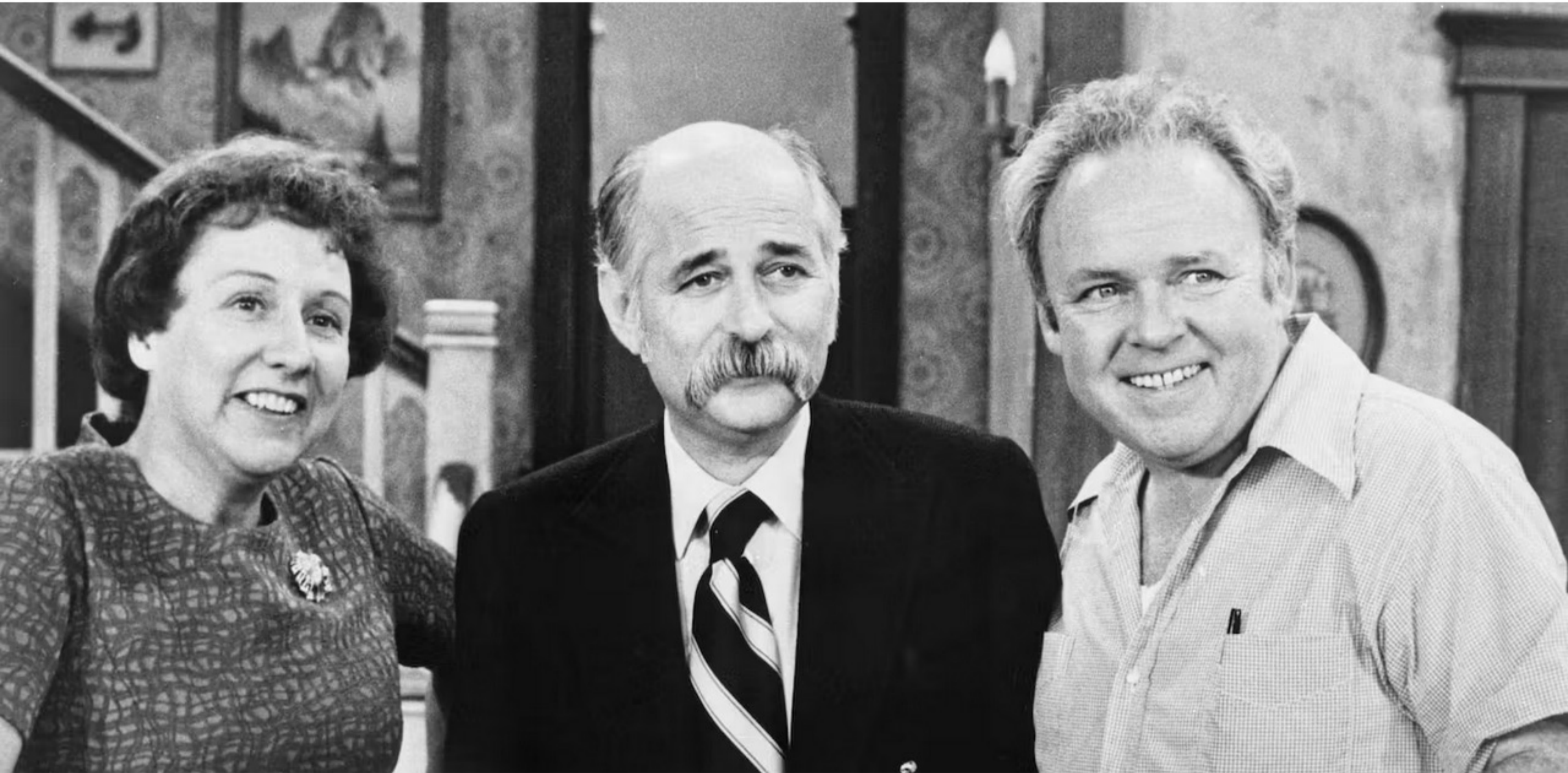
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*Producer Norman Lear on the set of his hit TV series 'All In The Family,' standing between its stars, Jean Stapleton and Carroll O'Connor.*  
Bettmann Archive/Getty Images



Even Americans who strongly disagree with each other may find common ground when they watch the same TV shows and movies, especially those that make us laugh or cry. **Norman Lear**, who died on Dec. 5, 2023, at 101, created television shows that did just that. "All in the Family," "Sanford and Son" and his other biggest hits began to air in the 1970s, a time when the U.S. desperately needed to bridge divides.



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Monday, December 11, 2023





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A DIRECTV advertisement on a screen. It features a QR code in the top left corner. The main text reads "A CONNECTION YOU CAN COUNT ON WHILE KEEPING YOUR COSTS DOWN". At the bottom, it says "DIRECTV" and "OUR CONTRACT WITH THE SATURN ZIMMER TEAM HAS EXPIRED FOR THE LATEST AND ALTERNATE WAYS TO WATCH. VISIT [TYPENICE.com](http://TYPENICE.com)".



An ESPN2 broadcast of an NFL game between the Buffalo Bills (BUF) and the Kansas City Chiefs (KC). The score is 0-0 in the 1st quarter with 3:51 remaining. The play is 2ND & 8. The broadcast includes a "GET UP" graphic, the text "FOOTBALL. THEN THE WAY", and a "THIS DRIVE" summary: 3 RUSH, 2 PASS, 28 YARDS, 3:16. The ESPN2 logo and "NCAA W" are also visible.

# Bienvenido




A bar counter area with various promotional signs and decorations. A large green sign in the center says "Corona". To the left, a sign says "NOW SERVING \$5.00". To the right, a sign says "BUD LIGHT \$20 BUD LIGHT PITCHERS! ALL DAY ON NFL SUNDAYS!". There are also "CHRISTMAS" and "Happy Holidays" signs, along with a "Corona" sign on a green circular object. The bar is decorated with Christmas-themed items like a Santa Claus figurine and garlands.







## Jewish religious leader reveals how he feels about Israeli aggression in Gaza


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Yisroel Dovid Weiss, Rabbi and spokesman for Neturei Karta, talks to TRT World about the Israeli attack on Palestine.  
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**Yisroel Dovid Weiss** (Yiddish: יצירל דוד לארשי; born 1956) is an American Haredi Jew, activist, and spokesman for the worldwide religious group Neturei Karta, a Haredi anti-Zionist group. Residing in Monsey, New York, he believes that Jews should peacefully oppose the existence of the Israeli state: "It would be forbidden for us to have a State, even if it would be in a land that is desolate and uninhabited."



## Hanan Ashrawi: "Israel is carrying out genocide in Gaza" | The InnerView


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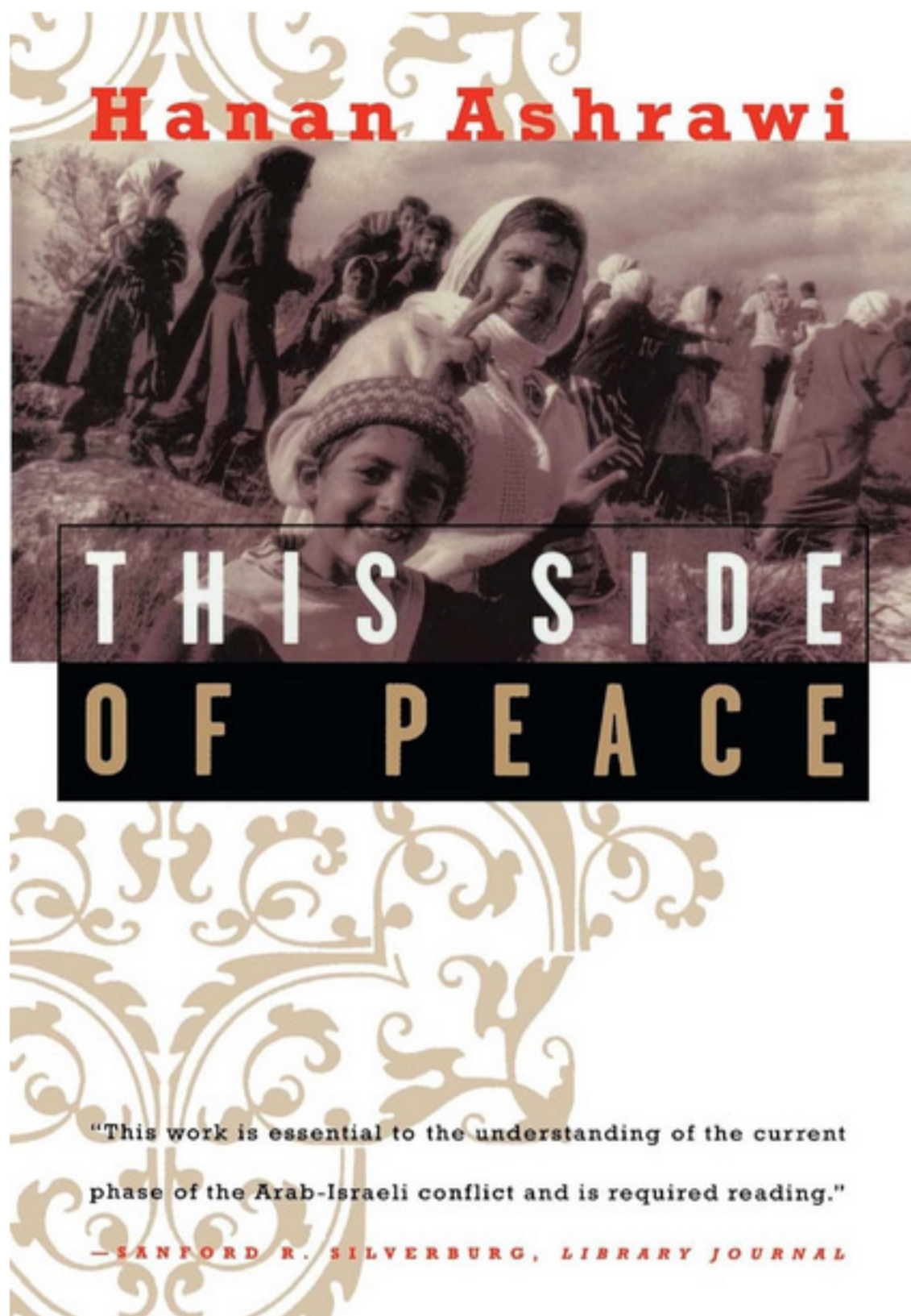
50,524 views Dec 11, 2023

Imran Garda travels to Ramallah to talk with veteran Palestinian activist and politician Hanan Ashrawi who says Benjamin Netanyahu's government has been conducting a genocidal war in Gaza.

For decades, Ashrawi was one of the faces of Palestinian negotiations for statehood. Now no longer involved within the PA structure, she harshly criticizes her former colleagues in the Palestinian Authority, blaming their ineffectiveness for why many Palestinians choose to support Hamas, a group seen as "doing something" in the face of occupation.

**Hanan Daoud Mikhael Ashrawi** (Arabic: هانان داود ميخائيل اشراوي; born 8 October 1946) is a Palestinian politician, activist, and scholar. She is the author of several books, articles, poems and short stories on Palestinian politics, culture and literature. Her book *This Side of Peace* (Simon & Schuster, 1995) earned worldwide recognition. Moreover, she is the recipient of eleven honorary doctorates from universities in the U.S., Canada, Europe, and the Arab world.





**From the world-recognized leader of the Palestinians comes an inside view of Arafat and of the secret negotiations and last-minute decisions that led to the Oslo Peace Talks.**


An insider's view of Mideast diplomacy, the PLO hierarchy, and the author's own life reveals Hanan Ashrawi's struggles as a Christian Arab woman in a Muslim, male-dominated society and chronicles her efforts for peace.

## This Side of Peace: A Personal Account Paperback – June 5, 1996



by [Hanan Ashrawi](#) (Author)

**Hanan Ashrawi**



Ashrawi at the Duisburg Audimax Campus, 29 November 2007

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| <b>Born</b>       | Hanan Daoud Mikhael Ashrawi<br>8 October 1946 (age 77)<br><a href="#">Nablus, Mandatory Palestine</a>    |
| <b>Education</b>  | <a href="#">American University of Beirut</a> (BA, MA)<br><a href="#">University of Virginia</a> (Ph.D.) |
| <b>Occupation</b> | <a href="#">Politician</a>   |
| <b>Spouse</b>     | Emile Ashrawi  |
| <b>Children</b>   | Amal<br>Zeina  |
| <b>Parent(s)</b>  | Daoud Mikhail, Wadi'a Ass'ad   |



[https://youtu.be/\\_FNtMV2i8-8](https://youtu.be/_FNtMV2i8-8)

TRT WORLD



**GAZA UNDER ATTACK**

Weiss: Killing and stealing are clearly forbidden in our religion

Rabbi Yisroel Dovid Weiss | Anti-Zionist Activist



4:19 / 11:04





# A Call for Healing: Gabor Maté on Palestine / Israel

Nov 3, 2023

<https://youtu.be/iOWJM9RfRD8>

Dr. Gabor Maté shares his own journey raised Jewish, and also his experiences visit to Gaza multiple times. In this in-depth interview, he offers a vision for healing personal and global conflict.



23:22 / 2:00:46 • Anti-Semitism in Hungary >





[https://www.democracynow.org/2023/10/19/amira\\_hass\\_on\\_gaza\\_humanitarian\\_crisis](https://www.democracynow.org/2023/10/19/amira_hass_on_gaza_humanitarian_crisis)  
[https://www.democracynow.org/2023/10/20/israeli\\_journalist\\_amira\\_hass\\_daughter\\_of](https://www.democracynow.org/2023/10/20/israeli_journalist_amira_hass_daughter_of)

## Israeli Journalist Amira Hass: How Can the World Stand By and Witness Israel's Slaughter in Gaza?

STORY OCTOBER 19, 2023



We speak with Amira Hass, Haaretz correspondent for the Occupied Palestinian Territories, who is usually based in Ramallah and attended Wednesday's anti-occupation protest in Washington, D.C., organized by American Jewish peace groups. Hass is the only Israeli Jewish journalist to have spent 30 years living in and reporting from Gaza and the West Bank. She decries the marginalization and suppression of the Israeli left, as "extreme fascists" in the Netanyahu government have whipped the Israeli public into one that is "drunk with the will to take revenge."

## Israeli Journalist Amira Hass, Daughter of Holocaust Survivors, Calls for Gaza Ceasefire Now

STORY OCTOBER 20, 2023



In Part 2 of our interview with legendary Israeli journalist Amira Hass, who has reported from the occupied West Bank and Gaza for over 30 years, she discusses attending Wednesday's historic protest in Washington, D.C., led by American Jewish groups, calling for an immediate ceasefire, as well as the events leading up to the Hamas attack on Israel on October 7, the ongoing hostage situation, and what could come next. "How can they say Israel is not responsible?" asks Hass, who says the government has continued its policy of apartheid, occupation and ethnic cleansing of Palestinians despite decades of international pressure to end the conflict. "Israel did everything possible to foil the possibility of establishing a Palestinian state alongside Israel."





## What really happened in Israel on Oct. 7? w/Max Blumenthal | The Chris Hedges Report



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1,007,871 views Premiered Nov 17, 2023 [The Chris Hedges Report](#)

For all the sensationalism surrounding the events of Oct. 7, when Hamas broke through the Gaza fence and seized territory in the Gaza Envelope as part of Operation Al-Aqsa Flood, there is still much that we do not know. The official Israeli death toll from the attack is estimated at 1,200 civilians, revised from an initial estimate of 1,400. Among this figure are several hundred civilians, which Israel says were killed by Hamas militants. Other testimony from survivors of Oct. 7 suggests an alternative explanation—that in its fervor to defeat Hamas, Israeli commanders may have willingly targeted and sacrificed Israeli soldiers and civilians in the crossfire. Max Blumenthal of The Grayzone joins The Chris Hedges Report for an in-depth look.

**Max Blumenthal** (born December 18, 1977) is an American author and blogger. He was a writer for The Nation, AlterNet, The Daily Beast, Al Akhbar, and Media Matters for America,[3][4] and has contributed to Al Jazeera English, The New York Times and the Los Angeles Times. He has been a writing fellow of the Nation Institute. He is a regular contributor to Russian state-owned Sputnik and RT. Blumenthal is the editor of The Grayzone website, which is known for its apologetic coverage of authoritarian regimes such as the Chinese, Russian, Syrian, and Venezuelan governments, including its denial of chemical attacks by the Syrian government and of human rights abuses against Uyghurs.

Blumenthal has written four books. His first, Republican Gomorrah: Inside the Movement That Shattered the Party (2009), made the Los Angeles Times and New York Times bestsellers lists.[14] He was awarded the 2014 Lannan Foundation Cultural Freedom Award for an Especially Notable Book for Goliath: Life and Loathing in Greater Israel, which was published in 2013. Blumenthal was born on December 18, 1977, in Boston, Massachusetts, to Jacqueline (née Jordan) and Sidney Blumenthal. His father is a journalist and writer who served as an aide to President Bill Clinton. Blumenthal attended Georgetown Day School in Washington, DC.[17] He graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1999 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in history.

### Hillary Clinton and Elie Wiesel

At the beginning of February 2016, it became known via a release of emails from the State Department that, during Hillary Clinton's four years as Secretary of State, Sidney Blumenthal had sent her at least 19 articles by Max Blumenthal concerning Israel which she had distributed among her staff.[89][90] In August 2010, Clinton emailed the elder Blumenthal to say: "Pls congratulate Max for another impressive piece. He's so good." Alan Dershowitz, also an associate of the Clintons, warned of the potential for problems over the connection with someone so critical of Israel.

When author and Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel died in July 2016, Max Blumenthal tweeted that "Wiesel went from a victim of war crimes to a supporter of those who commit them", referring to Israel, and "did more harm than good and should not be honored". According to Blumenthal, Wiesel "repeatedly lauded Jewish settlers for ethnically cleansing Palestinians in East Jerusalem". Wiesel was criticized for supporting Elad, an Israeli group which encourages Jewish settlement in the area.

Subsequently, Jake Sullivan, then senior policy adviser for Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign, said: "Secretary Clinton emphatically rejects these offensive, hateful, and patently absurd statements about Elie Wiesel."





## Israel May Lose Its Statehood | Col. Larry Wilkerson



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Col. (ret.) Lawrence Wilkerson's last positions in government were as Secretary of State Colin Powell's Chief of Staff (2002-05), Associate Director of the State Department's Policy Planning staff under the directorship of Ambassador Richard N. Haass, and member of that staff responsible for East Asia and the Pacific, political-military and legislative affairs (2001-02).

Before serving at the State Department, Wilkerson served 31 years in the U.S. Army. During that time, he was a member of the faculty of the U.S. Naval War College (1987 to 1989), Special Assistant to General Powell when he was Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (1989-93), and Director and Deputy Director of the U.S. Marine Corps War College at Quantico, Virginia (1993-97). Wilkerson retired in 1997 and began work as an advisor to General Powell. He has also taught national security affairs at the George Washington University and is currently working on a book about the first George W. Bush administration.



@fasted8468 3 weeks ago

"Every time anyone says that Israel is our only friend in the Middle East, I can't help but think that, before Israel, we had no enemies in the Middle East."

1.9K Reply

236 replies



@claystore 2 weeks ago

Its funny because up until October 7th, I really had little knowledge of WHY there was so much conflict in Israel. This conflict has forced me to open my eyes and I'm starting to "get it". I think that goes for a lot of people. Has drawing attention to the way it treats Palestinians helped Israel's global standing? I don't think it has, and in this sense, Israel has done itself a disservice. The gig is up.

Show less

280 Reply



@glenngilbert7389 3 weeks ago

Excellent and well balanced interview with someone who sees the enormous damage the US has done in this world - and a rationale for why the US and its allies are so despised

622 Reply

45 replies



@StephanieSoressi 3 weeks ago

Finally, someone from a U.S. military background with some common sense, no matter what your political affiliation is! No one has more honor or believability than Colonel Wilkerson!

69 replies



@uwanttono4012 3 weeks ago

Col. Wilkerson is a wonderful man of compassion, integrity and wisdom.

258 Reply

10 replies



**Will Israel continue to be a state** 11:47 > I don't think Israel will continue to be a state as it's presently constituted within the next 20 years I'd say within the next decade now I say that for a number of reasons first of all they they are a strategic liability not a strategic asset to the United States we've always dealt with them during the Cold War that's what we dealt with them Taiwan same thing you know an island at the Eastern end of the Mediterranean friendly to us that we could land on if we had to fight the Soviets same thing with Taiwan then they were a strategic asset in that very geostrategic sense they were an asset they are now a total liability to the United States to our reputation to our power to our strategic Focus we should be focused on China China is the real threat to the United States I'm not saying there's going to be a war there but there might be if we keep getting weaker and weaker and weaker and China feels like could Ste march on so that F that strategic focus is terrible and this latest development this development in Gaza that the Israelis should have seen coming like a steam-roller down the down the road I mean how many anadas do we have to have how many times do we have to go through this iteration where people who are fundamentally slaves subhuman kept that way by another State's military and police forces suddenly reacts to that and I I don't care whether it's Hamas or the Palestinian Authority or some outside power that does it for them like Saudi Arabia or Egypt it's just going to happen now this cycle can only repeat itself so many times I think this might be the last cycle what is Israel after this cycle ends is it what nataniel who wants which is a greater the Zionist dream a greater Israel it's so big and encompasses all the water oil gas and everything else in that region and is really giving Jordan and Egypt and Syria a headache every day because they know no one is satisfied with that kind of movement and gain of territory until they've got more and more and more so that's what the region would be looking at they would then figure out a way to terminate Israel as an existent State that's what they're headed for and yet you've got this you've got everything from the US side where John haggly thinks this is terrific Christians United for Israel because it's going to bring about Armageddon and that's what he's looking for to the side that says okay the only way to protect Israel is to eliminate its enemies we're starting with the Palestinians and negotiate with people like the qataris and the Emirates and Saudi Arabia and so forth and we'll put cash in front of them which always gets those Arabs and when we're ready to smack them we'll smack them too but right now we're just going to keep them close to us I see that as a what do you what would you call that the strategy of a greater Israel the strategy of the Zionist from the origin original conception we're we're not just going to have a state we're going to have a whole bunch of land and a whole bunch of region I don't know if netanyahu's schemes are that grandiose they certainly won't be satisfied even if there were any possibility they would in his lifetime that's another thing about these people and I don't mean Jews when I say these people I mean these zionists who are so zestful for other people's property in other people's territory um they don't seem to have a closure for their appetite you know who they remind me of in that regard they remind me of

. . . they don't seem to have a closure for their appetite you know who they remind me of in that regard they remind me of Adolf Hitler and they remind me very much of Adolf Hitler it's almost like you're looking in a mirror and more than once people have said to me what is this psychological phenomenon of being in a holocaust experiencing the Holocaust and then coming out of it and years later becoming the oppressor yourself look at history there's some of that in history that there is a tendency for the person who has been repressed oppressed murdered slaughtered reviled called Vermin and everything else to when they get to the power Pinnacle call others Vermin call others subhuman and so forth I'm not saying that's every Israel I don't think it is but it's a certain group of them benir benir I would accuse that to his face to his face I would say that to him because that's the kind of person benir is and the people around him and some of those settlers I don't have any truck for those people because they're the problem in the world for the last 5,000 years they're hatef they're ambitious to the point that their hate has to be fulfilled and that's bothersome and we're allied with it now we're allied with a state called Israel that has a lot of good people in it a lot of good people Netanyahu and his crowd now I don't know how Netanyahu got to this point point but he got there I think it's as venal as he wants to stay out of jail but look at who he's Allied himself with now look at who he Allied himself with and what they wanted to do to the Israeli Supreme Court and legal system in general for example this is this should have been intolerable to the United States we should have been there in Jerusalem Tel Aviv or wherever protesting with those Israelis who were protesting we should have been there telling him at that point you cannot do this and maintain American Support do you understand Mr Prime Minister but we weren't

### **Netanyahus impact on Israel > 17:35 >**

Larry if you look at these many years that nanahu was in charge in Israel what was the outcome is he putting Israelis and the people the Jews who are living now in Israel in a better place how do you say this no no and he's not putting the Jews who live in the United States in New York alone they almost number those in Israel they did they outnumbered him before the Russians immigrated um he's putting them in Jeopardy too as the rabbi said to me in New York the greatest motivator for an anti-Semitism in the world is BB Netanyahu and and we're very comfortable here we have found a country that accepts us a country that's Democratic most of the time a country that uh is comfortable for us to live in and we have prospered here we have prospered greatly here he's putting that in Jeopardy and more and more American Jews are beginning to think that way unfortunately some of the ones with the most amounts of money aren't but a lot of average American Jews are beginning to think that was let's look at BB being Finance Minister and then coming up BBE was directly responsible I'm not even going to say indirectly he was directly responsible for the assassination of yakine he wanted end the osel process he wanted to end any attempt at a two-state





John's Substack

# Death and Destruction in Gaza



JOHN J. MEARSHEIMER

DEC 11, 2023

I do not believe that anything I say about what is happening in Gaza will affect Israeli or American policy in that conflict. But I want to be on record so that when historians look back on this moral calamity, they will see that some Americans were on the right side of history.

What Israel is doing in Gaza to the Palestinian civilian population – with the support of the Biden administration – is a crime against humanity that serves no meaningful military purpose. As J-Street, an important organization in the Israel lobby, puts it, “The scope of the unfolding humanitarian disaster and civilian casualties is nearly unfathomable.” Let me elaborate.

First, Israel is purposely massacring huge number of civilians, roughly 70 percent of whom are children and women. The claim that Israel is going to great lengths to minimize civilian casualties is belied by statements from high level Israeli officials. For example, the IDF spokesman said on 10 October 2023 that “the emphasis is on damage and not on accuracy.” That same day, Defense Minister Yoav Gallant announced: “I have lowered all the restraints – we will kill everyone we fight against; we will use every means.”

Moreover, it is clear from the results of the bombing campaign that Israel is indiscriminately killing civilians. Two detailed studies of the IDF’s bombing campaign – both published in Israeli outlets – explain in detail how Israel is murdering huge numbers of civilians. It is worth quoting the titles of the two pieces, which succinctly capture what each has to say: “‘A Mass Assassination Factory’: Inside Israel’s Calculated Bombing of Gaza” “The Israeli Army Has Dropped the Restraint in Gaza, and the Data Shows Unprecedented Killing.” Similarly, the New York Times published an article in late November 2023 titled: “Gaza Civilians, Under Israeli Barrage, Are Being Killed at Historic Pace.” Thus, it is hardly surprising that the UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, said that “We are witnessing a killing of civilians that is unparalleled and unprecedented in any conflict since” his appointment in January 2017.

Second, Israel is purposely starving the desperate Palestinian population by greatly limiting the amount of food, fuel, cooking gas, medicine, and water that can be brought into Gaza. Moreover, medical care is extremely hard to come by for a population that now includes approximately 50,000 wounded civilians. Not only has Israel greatly limited the supply of fuel into Gaza, which hospitals need to function, but it has targeted hospitals, ambulances, and first aid stations. Defense Minister Gallant’s comment on 9 October captures Israeli policy: “I have ordered a complete siege on the Gaza Strip. There will be no electricity, no food, no fuel, everything is closed. We are fighting human animals, and we are acting accordingly.” [7] Israel has been forced to allow minimal supplies into Gaza, but the amounts are so small that a senior UN official reports that “half of Gaza’s population is starving.” He goes on to report that, “Nine out of 10 families in some areas are spending ‘a full day and night without any food at all’.” [8]

Third, Israeli leaders talk about Palestinians and what they would like to do in Gaza in shocking terms, especially when you consider that some of these leaders also talk incessantly about the horrors of the Holocaust. Indeed, their rhetoric has led Omar Bartov, a prominent Israeli-born scholar of the Holocaust, to conclude that Israel has “genocidal intent.” [9] Other scholars in Holocaust and genocide studies have offered a similar warning.

To be more specific, it is commonplace for Israeli leaders to refer to Palestinians as “human animals,” “human beasts,” and “horrible inhuman animals.” [11] And as Israeli President Isaac Herzog makes clear, those leaders are referring to all Palestinians, not just Hamas: In his words, “It is an entire nation out there that is responsible.” [12] Unsurprisingly, as the New York Times reports, it is part of normal Israeli discourse to call for Gaza to be “flattened,” “erased,” or “destroyed.” [13] One retired IDF general, who proclaimed that “Gaza will become a place where no human being can exist,” also makes the case that “severe epidemics in the south of the Gaza Strip will bring victory closer.” [14] Going even further, a minister in the Israeli government suggested dropping a nuclear weapon on Gaza. [15] These statements are not being made by isolated extremists, but by senior members of Israel’s government.

Of course, there is also much talk of ethnically cleansing Gaza (and the West Bank), in effect, producing another Nakba. [16] To quote Israel’s Agriculture Minister, “We are now rolling out the Gaza Nakba.” [17] Perhaps the most shocking evidence of the depths to which Israeli society has sunk is a video of very young children singing a blood-curdling song celebrating Israel’s destruction of Gaza: “Within a year we will annihilate everyone, and then we will return to plow our fields.” [18]

Fourth, Israel is not just killing, wounding, and starving huge numbers of Palestinians, it is also systematically destroying their homes as well as critical infrastructure – to include mosques, schools, heritage sites, libraries, key government buildings, and hospitals. [19] As of 1 December 2023, the IDF had damaged or destroyed almost 100,000 buildings, including entire neighborhoods that have been reduced to rubble. [20] Consequently, a stunning 90 percent of Gaza’s 2.3 million Palestinians have been displaced from their homes. [21] Moreover, Israel is making a concerted effort to destroy Gaza’s cultural heritage; as NPR reports, “more than 100 Gaza heritage sites have been damaged or destroyed by Israeli attacks.” [22]

Fifth, Israel is not just terrorizing and killing Palestinians, it is also publicly humiliating many of their men who have been rounded up by the IDF in routine searches. Israeli soldiers strip them down to their underwear, blindfold them, and display them in a public way in their neighborhoods – sitting them down in large groups in the middle of the street, for example, or parading them through the streets – before taking them away in trucks to detention camps. In most cases, the detainees are then released as they are not Hamas fighters. [23]

Sixth, although the Israelis are doing the slaughtering, they could not do it without the Biden administration’s support. Not only was the United States the only country to vote against a recent UN Security Council resolution demanding an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, but it has also been providing Israel with the weaponry necessary to wage this massacre. [24] As one Israeli general (Yitzhak Brick) recently made clear: “All of our missiles, the ammunition, the precision-guided bombs, all the airplanes and bombs, it’s all from the U.S. The minute they turn off the tap, you can’t keep fighting. You have no capability.... Everyone understands that we can’t fight this war without the United States. Period.” [25] Remarkably, the Biden administration has sought to expedite sending Israel additional ammunition, by-passing the normal procedures of the Arms Export Control Act. [26]


Seventh, while most of the focus is now on Gaza, it is important not to lose sight of what is simultaneously going on in the West Bank. Israeli settlers, working closely with the IDF, continue to kill innocent Palestinians and steal their land. In an excellent article in the New York Review of Books describing these horrors, David Shulman relates a conversation he had with a settler, which clearly reflects the moral dimension of Israeli behavior toward the Palestinians. “What we are doing to these people is actually inhuman,” the settler freely admits, “But if you think about it clearly, it all follows inevitably from the fact that God promised this land to the Jews, and only to them.” [27] Along with its assault on Gaza, the Israel government has markedly increased the number of arbitrary arrests in the West Bank. According to Amnesty International, there is considerable evidence that these prisoners have been tortured and subjected to degrading treatment. [28]

As I watch this catastrophe for the Palestinians unfold, I am left with one simple question for Israel’s leaders, their American defenders, and the Biden administration: have you no decency?





## Steven Pinker vs John Mearsheimer debate the enlightenment | Part 2 of FULL DEBATE

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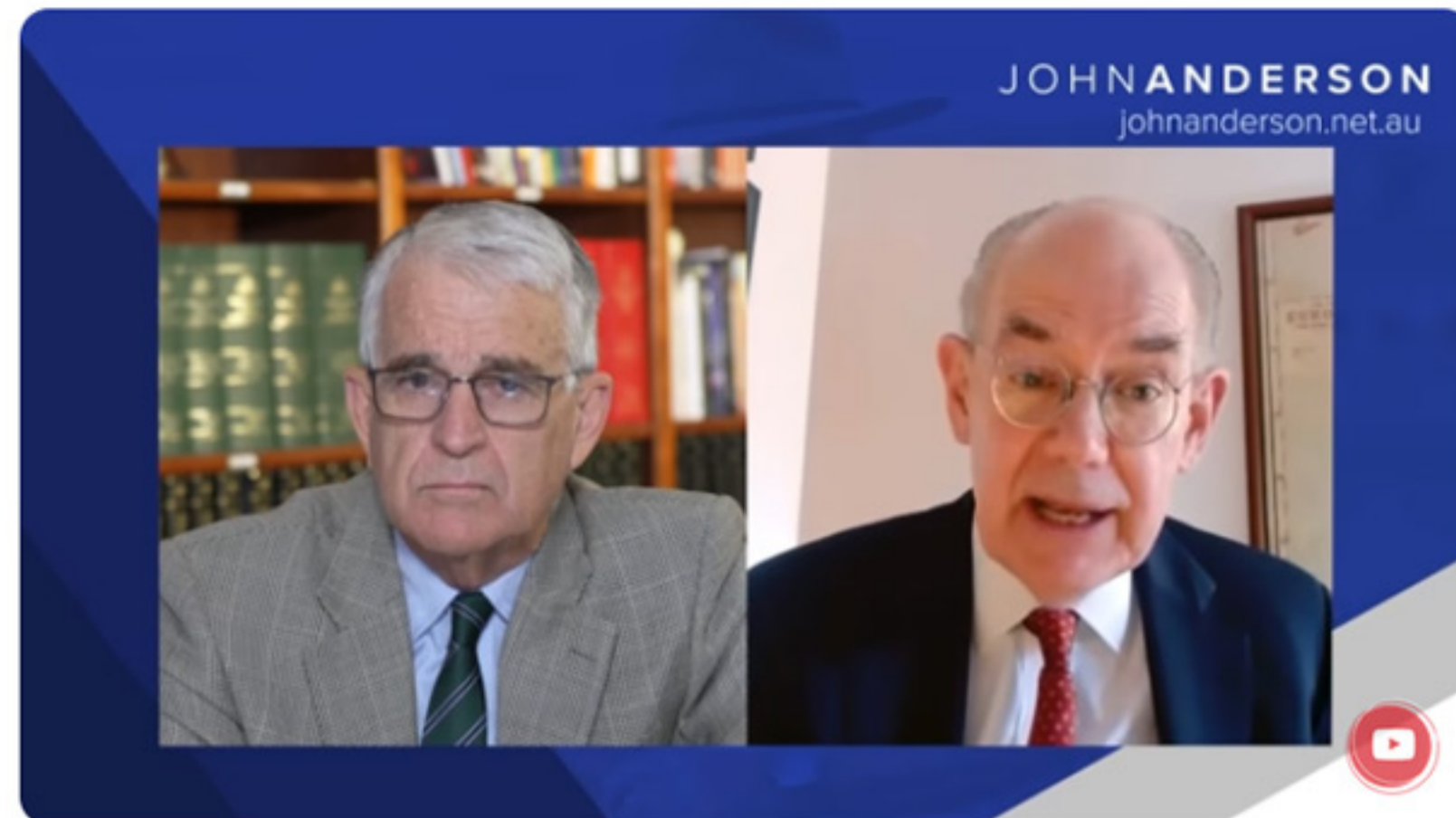
John Mearsheimer and Steven Pinker go head to head on Enlightenment ideals.

Watch the full debate at <https://iai.tv/video/the-enlightenmen...>


The Enlightenment advocated reason, science, democracy, and universal human rights as a grounding for human morality and social organization. In the quarter millennium since, to what extent have these ideals been realized? Has the Enlightenment in fact been successful in bringing about moral progress? Are there viable alternatives to the Enlightenment vision?

#TheEnlightenment #JohnMearsheimer #StevenPinker

Sophie Scott-Brown, Director at Gresham College, hosts a debate between two of the most influential thinkers of our time. Join John Mearsheimer, Professor of Political Science at the University of Chicago, and Steven Pinker, Professor of Psychology at Harvard University, as they discuss the Enlightenment and its alternatives.



## Ukraine, Taiwan and The True Cause of War | John Mearsheimer

 John Anderson ✓  
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In this conversation, John speaks with political scientist and international relations scholar Professor John Mearsheimer about the recent war in Ukraine, and the potential for conflict in Taiwan.

Mearsheimer argues for what he calls 'offensive realism', which holds that conflicts between states are driven by the need to maximize power in relation to other states. This is in contrast to the heterodox liberal framework, which Mearsheimer contends was only tenable under the recently ended 'unipolar' era. Using this framework, Mearsheimer famously predicted the recent Russian invasion, arguing that it was an inevitable outcome of NATO's eastward expansion.

The discussion also turns to the situation in Taiwan and why a conflict in Asia may be more likely than a European conflict during the new Cold War.

This is an important, thought-provoking, and at times controversial discussion—essential viewing for anyone trying to understand the confusing and tumultuous geopolitical climate we find ourselves in.

John J. Mearsheimer is the R. Wendell Harrison Distinguished Service Professor of Political Science at the University of Chicago, where he has taught since 1982. He graduated from West Point in 1970 and then served five years as an officer in the U.S. Air Force. He then started graduate school in political science at Cornell University in 1975. He received his Ph.D. in 1980. He spent the 1979-1980 academic year as a research fellow at the Brookings Institution, and was a postdoctoral fellow at Harvard University's Centre for International Affairs from 1980 to 1982. During the 1998-1999 academic year, he was the Whitney H. Shepardson Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York.





PHOTOGRAPH OF NANCY LUCE, c.1870  
Nancy Luce (c. 1814-1890) was a well-known West Tisbury resident.  
She wrote poems about her chickens and even had  
gravestones made for them.

From the collection of the Martha's Vineyard Museum  
www.mvmuseum.org

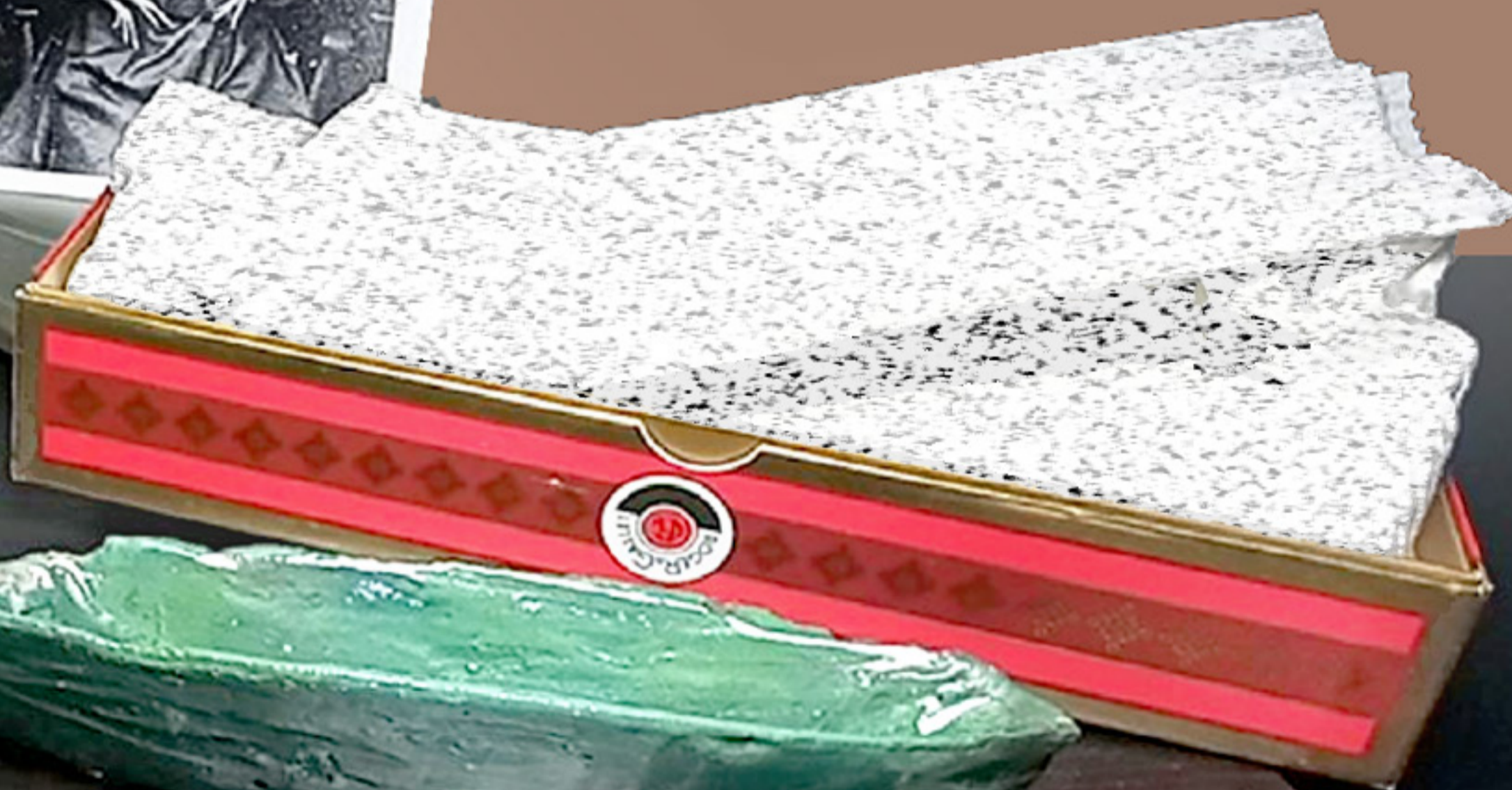
Time for Mings  
little boat to  
travel on  
The wisdom  
is in its  
fragility +  
association with  
tight ropes - It is  
meant to be with

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You - you will  
honor + appreciate  
what it will give  
to you  
with much  
love +  
inspiration  
Ba



O Z O



The heartfelt giving, alone, is such a gift. And the boat: Green, fragile--rocks a wobbly dugout canoe on my desk top, sinks in weightily in the soft bespeckled paper wrapping in the festive perfumed soap box tied loosely with cotton string. Tight rope tugs at fond memories, future stories to be found on the keel, if it had a keel, inscribed: O Z O . . . told, or maybe I'm imagining these characters, at any rate, Ming's little boat speaks to me, of "The symbiotic relationship between humans and nature," of the phoenix, a legendary bird, of a warehouse to store away (in Buddhism, something that encloses everything,) cherry blossoms, a small deciduous tree of the rose family--the language of this flower spoken in English as "spiritual beauty" and "a good education" . . . or more simply, the way I am, . . . more simply yet 造 'Creation!'

The heartfelt giving, alone, is enough. The boat rocks.





Let the voyage begin! Through a jumble of internet wires and wireless connections, a soft sharp 4B pencil at the point, . . .we set off. Red Turtle skippering, I paddling.



My condolences to Nancy Luce—no room in this dugout for her and her many, too many chicken memorabilia. Besides, it's best if Nancy stay land-locked on the island in West Tisbury to keep an eye on Martha's Vineyard Museum -- make sure they don't get too Bougie to pander to tourists.



**For too many birthdays ago to remember** exactly when, Ca had gifted me Red Turtle, who she'd fallen in love first sight at the local farmer's market being purveyed by a woman offering African hand-made crafts. This one, as I recall, coming from a small boy, I imagined 8 or 12, who had that big toothy innocent smile that can only be found on his continent. I don't recall which country, so let say Togo for now. Somewhere in sub-Saharan Africa. Somewhere in sub-Saharan Africa over a billion people are landless, left susceptible to exploitation, and must by necessity be ready at a drop of a hat to voyage on. I commiserate. I too am landless, a renter, always have been. Except when I was a child with a crooked toothed beguiled grin and had to live, as all children do, at the whims and in subservience to their parents, if they are lucky enough to have a pair, all the more a kind pair of parents. Red Turtle whispers, "I'm a skipper, always have been. A skipper without a boat. And now that we have a boat without a skipper . . . let's voyage!"

And that's the triangle where we'll find **Ming's Green Boat** skippered by Red Turtle heading out . . . through that delta between what people think and what's real. Let the voyage begin!

**Historian Heather Cox Richardson,** interested in the divorce between what people think is happening from what is really happening tells on herself, "I was a waitress in Oklahoma for a while and I was the only person on the floor who wasn't an Evangelical Christian. It was in the 80s and they were all fervent Republicans fervent, you know, Ronald Reagan Republicans, and literally one of them called me the Antichrist, because I'd gone to Harvard and I'd put education between me and God. I was looking at them, and I was not political at all. I was looking at them, and I'm like, . . . you are literally supporting somebody who's cut everything you need. They were all living on the poverty line. And yet the people who are trying to help you, you're saying are against you. I found that so fascinating. I had spent a lot of time doing folklore and mythology, which is actually how I ran into Bill Moyers at first because he had that wonderful series with Joseph Campbell. So I read Jung, and all that after that, and I thought this is a really interesting delta between what people think and what's real."



"If it were a fancy plane inviting us, we'd take a flight of fantasy, but it's a boat, a humble boat . . . let's voyage!"



"... a skipper without a boat, a boat without a skipper . . . let's voyage!"





*No mother would want her son to be killed rather than be taken prisoner...You prefer to wait until he returns, even if it goes on for very many years.*

—Pnina Feldman, mother of Zvi Feldman, missing since the battle of Sultan Yakub in Lebanon, in June 1982

## What's Israel's Hannibal Directive? A former Israeli soldier tells all

*The controversial policy to avoid the capture of Israeli soldiers isn't formally in place now. But echoes persist in the war in Gaza, say some analysts.*



## ‘Hannibal Directive’: Did Israel kill its own?

The high civilian death toll during the recent Hamas attack has sparked a debate on whether Israel employed a notorious military doctrine.



PAUL SALVATORI

**The Hannibal Directive** (Hebrew: לעבינה להונ; also Hannibal Procedure or Hannibal Protocol) is the name of a controversial procedure that was used by Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) until 2016 to prevent the capture of Israeli soldiers by enemy forces. According to one version, it says that "the kidnapping must be stopped by all means, even at the price of striking and harming our own forces."<sup>[2]</sup> It was introduced in 1986, after a number of abductions of IDF soldiers in Lebanon and subsequent controversial prisoner exchanges. The full text of the directive was never published, and until 2003, Israeli military censorship forbade any discussion of the subject in the press. The directive has been changed several times,<sup>[2]</sup> until its revocation in 2016 by IDF chief of staff Gadi Eizenkot.

Two versions of the Hannibal Directive may have existed simultaneously at times: a written version, accessible only to the upper echelon of the IDF, and an "oral law" version for division commanders and lower levels. In the latter version, "by all means" was often interpreted literally, as in "an IDF soldier was 'better dead than abducted'". In 2011, IDF Chief of Staff Benny Gantz stated the directive does not permit killing IDF soldiers to prevent abduction.<sup>[5]</sup>

In case of the abduction of Gilad Shalit, invocation of the Hannibal Directive occurred too late to have any influence on the course of events.

### *Perceived implementation during the 2023 war*

On 5 December 2023, Israeli hostages released by Hamas met with Benjamin Netanyahu's war cabinet and claimed that, during the 7 October Hamas attack on Israel they were deliberately attacked by Israeli helicopters on their way into Gaza, and were shelled constantly by the Israeli military while they were there. According to some commentators, this was an implementation of the Directive on Israeli civilians.

**According to Kibbutz Be'eri survivors Hadas Dagan and Yasmin Porat, the 12-year-old Israeli girl Liel Hetzroni was killed on October 7 was killed by IDF tank rounds.** In an interview with Israel's Haaretz daily, Lieut. Col. Nof Erez explained the the IDF was more or less wiped out on the ground on the Gaza border. There was no one that helicopter or drone pilots could communicate with. This made the identification of persons on the ground very difficult. According to Erez, "the Hannibal Protocol, for which we have been running drills for the past 20 years, concerns a single vehicle with hostages in it. You know which part of the fence it goes through, which way on the road it heads to, and even which route it takes... What we've seen here is a mass Hannibal. There were many gaps in the fences. There were thousands of people in many different vehicles, both with and without hostages," he added.



# Israel vows to fight on in Gaza despite deadly ambush and rising international pressure

By NAJIB JOBAIN and KAREEM CHEHAYEB  
Updated 2:00 AM PST, December 14, 2023

RAFAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — Israel has vowed to keep fighting in Gaza until it crushes Hamas after one of the deadliest single battles of the war for its soldiers, even as it faces mounting international calls for a cease-fire and unease on the part of its closest ally, the United States. The ambush in Gaza City showed Hamas is still able to fight in some of the hardest-hit areas more than two and a half months into a massive air and ground war aimed at destroying its military capabilities. Israel has imposed a total siege on northern Gaza and flattened much of it, forcing most of the population to flee south several weeks ago. Hamas' resilience has called into question whether Israel can defeat it without wiping out Gaza. Support for Hamas has surged among Palestinians — in part because of the militant group's stiff resistance to a far more powerful foe — while Israel's most important ally, the **U.S., has expressed growing discomfort over civilian deaths in what is already one of the 21st century's most devastating military campaigns.** "We are continuing until the end, there is no question," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said late Wednesday. "I say this even given the great pain and the international pressure. Nothing will stop us." U.S. National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan was set to visit Israel on Thursday. The U.S. has pressed Israel to take greater measures to spare civilians, and President Joe Biden said earlier this week that **Israel was losing international support because of its "indiscriminate bombing."**

The ambush took place Tuesday in the dense Gaza City neighborhood of Shijaiyah, which was also the scene of a major battle during the 2014 war between Israel and Hamas. The dead included two high-ranking officers. A total of 116 soldiers have been killed in the ground offensive, which began Oct. 27. Heavy fighting has raged for days in Shijaiyah and other areas in and around eastern Gaza City that were encircled earlier in the war. Tens of thousands of people remain in the north despite repeated evacuation orders, saying they don't feel safe anywhere in Gaza or fear they may never return to their homes if they leave them.

**A HEAVY CIVILIAN TOLL:** Israel's air and ground assault has killed more than 18,600 Palestinians, according to the Health Ministry in Hamas-run Gaza. Its latest count did not specify how many were women and minors, but they have consistently made up around two-thirds of the dead in previous tallies. Thousands more are missing and feared dead beneath the rubble. Nearly 1.9 million Palestinians have been driven from their homes, with most seeking refuge in the south, even as Israel has continued to strike what it says are militant targets in all parts of the territory, often killing women and children.

**RISING SUPPORT FOR HAMAS:** Israel might have hoped that the war and its hardships would turn Palestinians against Hamas, hastening its demise, but as with previous rounds of violence, it seems to be having the opposite effect. A poll conducted by the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research found 44% of respondents in the occupied West Bank said they supported Hamas, up from just 12% in September. In Gaza, the militants enjoyed 42% support, up from 38% three months ago. That's still a minority in both territories. But even many Palestinians who do not share Hamas' commitment to destroying Israel and oppose its attacks on civilians see it as resisting Israel's decades-old occupation of lands they want for a future state. The poll meanwhile showed overwhelming rejection of Western-backed Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, with nearly 90% saying he must resign. The 88-year-old leader's administration, which governs parts of the Israeli-occupied West Bank, is widely seen by Palestinians as a corrupt and autocratic accomplice to the occupation because it works with Israel to suppress Hamas and other militant groups.

The U.S. wants Abbas' internationally recognized Palestinian Authority to also govern Gaza, which it lost to Hamas in a week of street fighting in 2007. The U.S. also wants to revive the long-defunct peace process to negotiate the creation of a Palestinian state. Netanyahu's government is firmly opposed to Palestinian statehood and has said it will maintain open-ended security control over Gaza.

Hamas' exiled leader, Ismail Haniyeh, who is based in Qatar, said late Wednesday that any plans for Gaza that do not involve Hamas are an "illusion and mirage," though he said the group is open to another truce.

Israelis remain strongly supportive of the war and see it as necessary to prevent a repeat of Oct. 7, when Hamas burst through the country's vaunted defenses. Palestinian militants attacked communities across southern Israel that day, killing around 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and taking some 240 hostage.

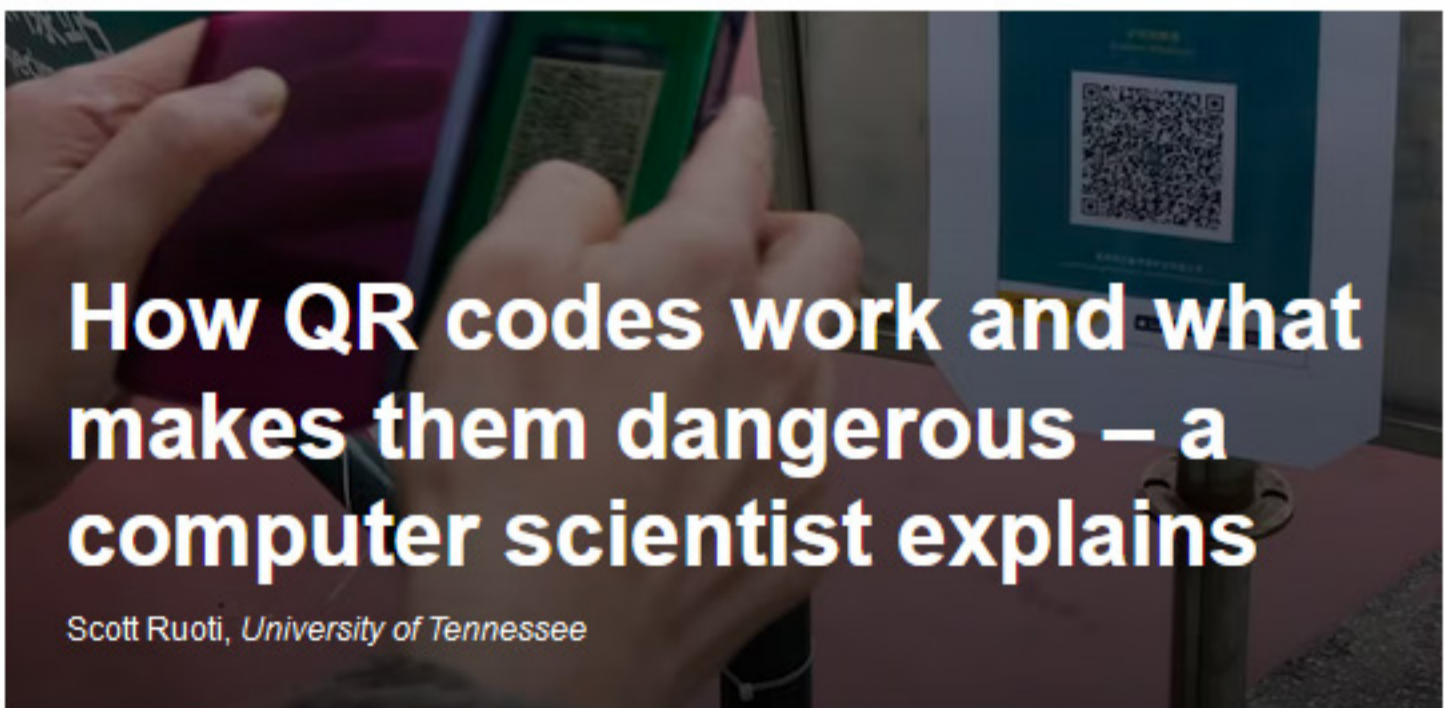
Around half the hostages, mostly women and children, were released last month during a weeklong cease-fire in exchange for the release of 240 Palestinian prisoners held by Israel.





## Growth of autocracies will expand Chinese global influence via Belt and Road Initiative as it enters second decade

Richard Carney, *Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen*



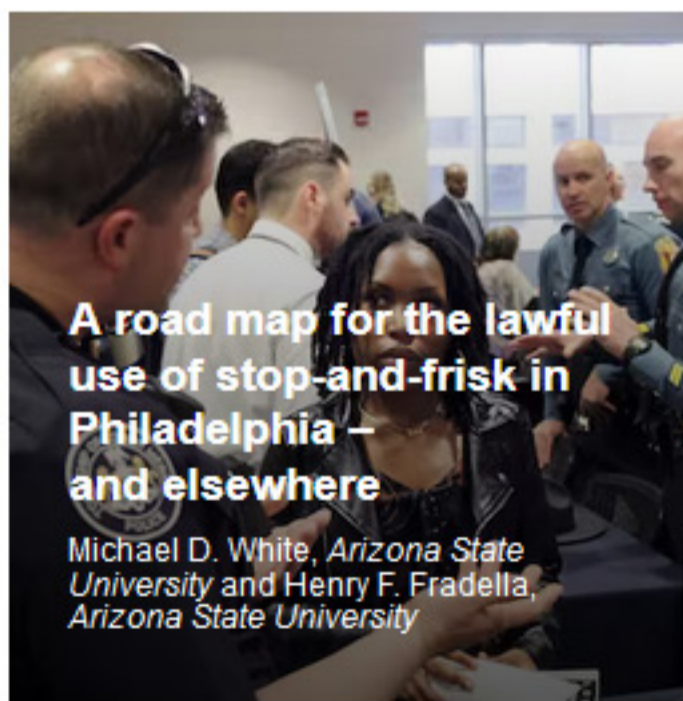
## How QR codes work and what makes them dangerous – a computer scientist explains

Scott Ruoti, *University of Tennessee*



## Health misinformation is rampant on social media – here's what it does, why it spreads and what people can do about it

Monica Wang, *Boston University*



## A road map for the lawful use of stop-and-frisk in Philadelphia – and elsewhere

Michael D. White, *Arizona State University* and Henry F. Fradella, *Arizona State University*



## Arctic Report Card 2023: From wildfires to melting sea ice, the warmest summer on record had cascading impacts across the Arctic

Rick Thoman, *University of Alaska Fairbanks*; Matthew L. Druckenmiller, *University of Colorado Boulder*, and Twila A. Moon, *University of Colorado Boulder*

**QR codes** are not inherently dangerous. They are simply a way to store data. However, just as it can be hazardous to click links in emails, visiting URLs stored in QR codes can also be risky.

Understanding what drives the demand for the **Belt and Road Initiative**, and the trends that will propel it into the future, is vital for the West to devise an effective strategy that counters China's rising global influence.



## Wall Street calls them 'the Magnificent 7': They're the reason why stocks are surging

DECEMBER 13, 2023 · 5:00 AM ET

HEARD ON MORNING EDITION



David Gura



This year's rally has really depended on seven stocks that Wall Street refers to as 'The Magnificent Seven': Apple, Amazon, Alphabet, NVIDIA, Meta, Microsoft and Tesla


Michael M. Santiago/Getty Images

The S&P 500, a broad-based group of stocks that includes many of the world's biggest and best-known companies, is up more than 21% so far this year. In fact, as it turns out, the S&P 500's impressive performance is actually thanks almost entirely to just a handful of stocks: "The Magnificent Seven," as they are referred to on Wall Street. Together, **Apple, Amazon, Alphabet, NVIDIA\*, Meta, Microsoft, and Tesla** are up around 70% year to date. And if you were to take them out of the S&P 500, the index would be up around 6%.

Over-dependence on such a narrow set of stocks can be risky, leaving markets vulnerable to a downturn if the fortunes of the Magnificent Seven were to falter.

**NVIDIA**, "World Leader in Artificial Intelligence Computing," invents the GPU (graphics processing unit) and drives advances in AI, HPC (high performance computing), gaming, creative design, autonomous vehicles, and robotics.






even though 54% of people

**8 in 10 Americans feel there is a serious threat to democracy in the U.S**

▶ 1:29



NPR political reporter Elena Moore, help us out here.

**Gen Z and Millennial voters will make up nearly half the electorate by 2024**

▶ 1:28




They produce a combined total of more than 12,000 megawatts.

**Iowa is a leader in the use of renewable energy, for now**

▶ 0:43

**Epic Games beat Google but lost to Apple in monopoly lawsuits.** What does it all mean? The tech giants' app stores are multibillion-dollar money-makers. Now the services are under threat like never before. Wu from Harvard points out that forcing Silicon Valley companies to change has long been an uphill battle, since the antitrust laws being used against the high-tech firms are more than a century old. And as long as Congress does not write new competition laws for the digital age, it might be up to the Supreme Court to provide some clarity. "There's a lot of ambiguity right now in antitrust law around digital platforms, and it would be very helpful for a high-level court to settle these issues," Wu said. "We need the Supreme Court to step in on these matters."


**Ranked choice** is 'the hot reform' in democracy. Roughly 50 American voting jurisdictions have now moved to a ranked choice voting system, and it's shaping up to be one of the political subplots of 2024.



CLEARWATER MARINE AQUARIUM  
Clearwater, Florida  
Dec. 6, 2023

**52 New England turtles with 'cold stun' flown to Florida**


▶ 0:41



western Jerusalem,

**Shops, schools and government offices closed in East Jerusalem in...**

▶ 1:08



it's also the birthplace of some groundbreaking hip-hop

**Memphis is known as the home of blues, but it's also the birthplace of some...**

▶ 3:10

**The United Nations approves a cease-fire resolution despite U.S. opposition.** The United Nations General Assembly approved the resolution 153 to 10 with 23 abstentions. This latest resolution is non-binding.

**Most Americans with mental health needs don't get treatment.** Many Americans are diagnosed with mental health conditions, but most don't get professional help, even if they're insured. Obstacles include difficulties finding providers their plan covers.



# Israel is using an AI system to find targets in Gaza. Experts say it's just the start

DECEMBER 14, 2023 · 4:58 AM ET



Geoff Brumfiel



Smoke billows after an Israeli strike on north Gaza on November 22, 2023. Israel says it is using artificial intelligence to find targets.

JOHN MACDOUGALL/AFP via Getty Images

The pace is astonishing: In the wake of the brutal attacks by Hamas-led militants on October 7, Israeli forces have struck more than 22,000 targets inside Gaza, a small strip of land along the Mediterranean coast. Just since the temporary truce broke down on December 1, Israel's Air Force has hit more than 3,500 sites. The Israeli military says it's using artificial intelligence to select many of these targets in real-time. The military claims that **the AI system, named "the Gospel,"** has helped it to rapidly identify enemy combatants and equipment, while reducing civilian casualties. But critics warn the system is unproven at best — and at worst, **providing a technological justification for the killing of thousands of Palestinian civilians.** "It appears to be an attack aimed at maximum devastation of the Gaza Strip," says Lucy Suchman, an anthropologist and professor emerita at Lancaster University in England who studies military technology. If the AI system is really working as claimed by Israel's military, "how do you explain that?" she asks.

Other experts question whether any AI can take on a job as consequential as targeting humans on the battlefield. "AI algorithms are notoriously flawed with high error rates observed across applications that require precision, accuracy, and safety," warns Heidi Khlaaf, Engineering Director of AI Assurance at Trail of Bits, a technology security firm. Despite these concerns, most experts agree that this is the beginning of a new phase in the use of AI in warfare. Algorithms can sift through mounds of intelligence data far faster than human analysts, says Robert Ashley, a former head of the U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency. Using AI to assist with targeting has the potential to give commanders an enormous edge. "You're going to make decisions faster than your opponent, that's really what it's about," he says. Here's what's known about the Gospel, and what it means for the future of warfare. **The AI targeting system Israel uses can generate targets at a rapid rate.** "The attraction is clear," he says. Most modern militaries are shrinking in size, and need technology to help bridge the gap. AI systems can help them search enormous quantities of intelligence data to try and find the enemy. According to posts on the Israeli military's website, **the Gospel was developed by Israel's signals intelligence branch, known as Unit 8200.** The system is relatively new — one of the earliest mentions was a top innovation award that it won in 2020. "Basically Gospel imitates what a group of intelligence officers used to do in the past," he says. But the Gospel is much more efficient. He says a group of 20 officers might produce 50-100 targets in 300 days. By comparison, Mimran says he thinks the Gospel and its associated AI systems can suggest around 200 targets "within 10-12 days" — a rate that's at least 50 times faster.



Israel says that artificial intelligence is allowing it to precisely target Hamas infrastructure. Independent researchers say roughly one in three buildings in Gaza have been damaged or destroyed.

Yousef Masoud/AP



## **Despite the criticisms, the Israeli system is likely a taste of what's to come**

While Israel's use of the Gospel to generate a full set of targets may be unique, the nation is hardly alone in using AI to assist in intelligence analysis. The U.S. is actively working with many different kinds of AI to try and identify targets in the field. One suite of AI tools, known as Project Maven, is run through the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, which collects massive quantities of satellite imagery — far more than a human analyst could search.





# What is Project Maven? The Pentagon AI project Google employees want out of



By Adam Frisk • Global News

Posted April 5, 2018 10:55 am

Over 3,000 Google employees have signed a petition in protest against the company's involvement with a U.S. Department of Defense artificial intelligence (AI) project that studies imagery and could eventually be used to improve drone strikes in the battlefield. In an open letter addressed to CEO Sundar Pichai, Google employees expressed concern that the U.S. military could weaponize AI and apply the technology towards refining drone strikes and other kinds of lethal attacks. "We believe that Google should not be in the business of war," the letter begins, before going on to explain that Google's involvement in Project Maven stands to damage its brand and its trust among the public. According to the defense department, Project Maven, also known as the Algorithmic Warfare Cross-Function Team, launched in April 2017. Among its objectives, the project aims to develop and integrate "computer-vision algorithms needed to help military and civilian analysts encumbered by the sheer volume of full-motion video data that DoD collects every day in support of counterinsurgency and counterterrorism operations," according to the Pentagon. The Pentagon had planned to have its first set of algorithms installed to "warfighting systems" by the end of 2017.

The petition, originally published in the New York Times, also rejects the argument that Google's involvement isn't problematic because the likes of Microsoft and Amazon are also partners in the project, stating that Google's unique history and influence set it apart. A Google spokesperson described to the Times the company's involvement with Project Maven as "non-offensive" in nature. As the tech news site Gizmodo pointed out last month, the Pentagon's recognition technology was limited to only identifying simple objects such as cars and people, not more complex situations.

A spokesperson confirmed to the tech site that Google was providing the defense department with TensorFlow APIs, which help military analysts detect certain objects in imagery. "We have long worked with government agencies to provide technology solutions. This specific project is a pilot with the Department of Defense, to provide open source TensorFlow APIs that can assist in object recognition on unclassified data," Gizmodo quoted the Google rep as saying. "The technology flags images for human review, and is for non-offensive uses only. Military use of machine learning naturally raises valid concerns. We're actively discussing this important topic internally and with others as we continue to develop policies and safeguards around the development and use of our machine learning technologies." The Times pegged the project to cost under \$70 million for its first year. In October of last year, the Pentagon said it hoped to expand the scope of Project Maven in Phase 2 of the program, turning the expansive data into "actionable intelligence and decision-quality insights at speed."

**Artificial intelligence arms race:** A military artificial intelligence arms race is an arms race between two or more states to develop and deploy lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS). Since the mid-2010s, many analysts have noted the emergence of such an arms race between global superpowers for better military AI, driven by increasing geopolitical and military tensions. An AI arms race is sometimes placed in the context of an AI Cold War between the US and China.

Lethal autonomous weapons systems use artificial intelligence to identify and kill human targets without human intervention. LAWS have colloquially been called "slaughterbots" or "killer robots". Broadly, any competition for superior AI is sometimes framed as an "arms race". Advantages in military AI overlap with advantages in other sectors, as countries pursue both economic and military advantages.

**Project Maven** is a Pentagon project involving using machine learning and engineering talent to distinguish people and objects in drone videos, apparently giving the government real-time battlefield command and control, and the ability to track, tag and spy on targets without human involvement. Initially the effort was led by Robert O. Work who was concerned about China's military use of the emerging technology.[53] Reportedly, Pentagon development stops short of acting as an AI weapons system capable of firing on self-designated targets.[54] The project was established in a memo by the U.S. Deputy Secretary of Defense on 26 April 2017.[55] Also known as the Algorithmic Warfare Cross Functional Team,[56] it is, according to Lt. Gen. of the United States Air Force Jack Shanahan in November 2017, a project "designed to be that pilot project, that pathfinder, that spark that kindles the flame front of artificial intelligence across the rest of the [Defense] Department". Its chief, U.S. Marine Corps Col. Drew Cukor, said: "People and computers will work symbiotically to increase the ability of weapon systems to detect objects." Project Maven has been noted by allies, such as Australia's Ian Langford, for the ability to identify adversaries by harvesting data from sensors on UAVs and satellite. At the second Defense One Tech Summit in July 2017, Cukor also said that the investment in a "deliberate workflow process" was funded by the Department [of Defense] through its "rapid acquisition authorities" for about "the next 36 months".

The Joint Artificial Intelligence Center (JAIC) (pronounced "jake") is an American organization on exploring the usage of AI (particularly edge computing), Network of Networks, and AI-enhanced communication, for use in actual combat. It is a subdivision of the United States Armed Forces and was created in June 2018. The organization's stated objective is to "transform the US Department of Defense by accelerating the delivery and adoption of AI to achieve mission impact at scale. The goal is to use AI to solve large and complex problem sets that span multiple combat systems; then, ensure the combat Systems and Components have real-time access to ever-improving libraries of data sets and tools."



Chief Raoni, left, of the Indigenous Kayapo Nation in Brazil, left, and Native American Indian Red Crow, right, of South Dakota, shake hands during a press conference to present a project for an environmental park in Brazil's Amazon, as Belgian filmmaker Jean-Pierre Dutilleux, who is participating in the project, sits between them, in Paris, France, April 13, 1989.





Indigenous Chief Raoni Metuktire, left, and Belgian filmmaker Jean-Pierre Dutilleux attend a meeting at the ChangeNOW summit in Paris, France, May 27, 2023. For five decades, the Amazonian tribal chief and Belgian film director enlisted presidents and royals, even Pope Francis, to improve the lives of Brazil's Indigenous peoples and protect their lands. Behind the scenes, however, the relationship was nearing its end. Not long after returning to Brazil in May 2024, the chief of the Kayapo severed ties with his Belgian acolyte. (AP Photo/Aurelien Morissard, File)





## The Comment That Almost Canceled Christmas:

*A volunteer's joke at Vista's annual Christmas Parade almost cost the organizers thousands and could have impacted future parades.*

It happened in an instant. A volunteer announcer at Vista's big Christmas Parade noticed a very cute dog and made an off-the-cuff comment about the pup and its owner, suggesting that people should vote for a specific City Council candidate, Denisse Barragan, who is running for the District 3 seat against current City Councilmember Katie Melendez, because she had her cute dog with her at the event. What seemed like a playful joke, though, ended up being a violation of state law, and it could've cost the Chamber \$8,500. When the volunteer announcer jokingly told people at the parade to vote for Barragan, it was technically an endorsement. State law prohibits the use of public funds for political endorsements. Councilmember Melendez, who will be running against Barragan to keep her council seat in 2024, was "persistent" in pushing for the Chamber to return the \$8,500 of city funds because of the violation. Vista Chamber CEO Rachel Beld assured members in an email that what happened was an accident. The Chamber did not endorse or encourage the comment. She prepared a new set of guidelines and rules for future volunteers of Chamber events to avoid mistakes like this from happening again, which she shared with the council and city staff. Melendez never specifically asked for the funds back, said she was satisfied with Beld's corrective plan. "After meeting with Rachel Beld, I was like, 'I think that the corrections you're offering Rachel are completely fine and are totally sufficient to address the situation. I don't feel the need to demand anything more from you,'" Melendez said. That means the Chamber will not have to pay back the \$8,500. Over a dozen people were prepared to advocate for the Vista Chamber, and if the item was discussed, it probably wouldn't have been a very "happy conversation with the community."







**Former Israeli Advisor on Netanyahu, Qatar and Irreversible Damage In Gaza | Ash Meets Daniel Levy**

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173,703 views Premiered Dec 10, 2023

From advising former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak to heading up the US / Middle East Peace Project, Daniel Levy has had a front row seat at some of the most consequential peace negotiations between Israel and Palestine in the last two decades. He sat down with Ash to talk about genocide, the central role of gulf monarchies and why zionism does little to increase safety for Jews.

Daniel Levy, "Part of what's going on is, people have been so preoccupied with not using nasty words to describe the reality over there, that they failed to actually acknowledge, actually factor into policymaking the realities of what's happening there. We have treated as normal a government which wears eradication ethno-supremacy and ethnic cleansing as a badge of pride."



**Norman Finkelstein vs Alan Dershowitz On Israel-Palestine War With Piers Morgan | The Full Debate**

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784,225 views Dec 13, 2023 #piersmorgan #israel #palestine

Piers Morgan Uncensored is joined by lawyer and author Alan Dershowitz and author and political scientist Norman Finkelstein as the pair unite for their first live television debate in over 20 years.

The pair debate the Israel and Palestine conflict in Gaza, whether Hamas and the IDF are terrorist organisations, whether Israel is committing genocide on the Palestinian people and what the conclusion for this war will look like.

**Dershowitz:** The future of civilization depends on Israel being able to destroy Hamas and avoiding repetition.

**Finkelstein:** An Israeli defense minister, "There will be no electricity, no food, no water, no fuel, everything is closed. We are fighting human animals and we are acting accordingly." Now that was not directed at Hamas, that was directed at the entire population of Gaza. I think your listeners understand what is the consequence of denying a civilian population all water, all food all, fuel, and all electricity. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that, that is a recipe for genocide.





**Yes!, she's my baby . . .** genetics can be real crazy and my husband is white.





**Do you guys still sleep in Grass thatched houses?** Do you still sleep in houses made of mud? Those of you that keep asking that question and possibly because of genuine curiosity or lack of information, but anyway . . . yes, we do! Yes we do sleep in them. We still do sleep in them. Why wouldn't we sleep in them? Why wouldn't you sleep in a house that has its own natural cooling system, even when it's the hottest of the hottest months in Uganda? You don't need a fridge to keep your water cold or your drinks cold, the grass thached house does that free of charge. You don't have to pay for the energy. Why wouldn't I sleep in a house that takes nature to construct? I'm not worried of trying to buy expensive materials in order to have a house to sleep in. Why wouldn't I sleep in such a house? Why wouldn't I sleep in such a house?

So many times we love to dehumanize other people's way of life or cultures and simply because we lack information and also because you have grown up in one kind of Lifestyle and you think that one kind of Lifestyle should be the standard of everyone so many cultures in so many places around the world have been dehumanized the people that think everything there has to be the standard of everyone most of us are striving so much to adopt cultures to adopt every kind of way of life that is not ours because we have the verge of trying to prove ourselves that we are doing better actually we are also doing better we also have this we also have this we also have this we also have grass houses how will we promote our cultures when we ourselves are not proud of our cultures if it doesn't kill.

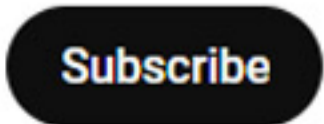
Why shouldn't we celebrate it when did grass houses become a piece of embarrassment anyways. We just sleep in them I had such a great night's sleep. This is a kind of house that even heals in somnia.

**Do you still sleep in Grass thatched houses** !! 😬



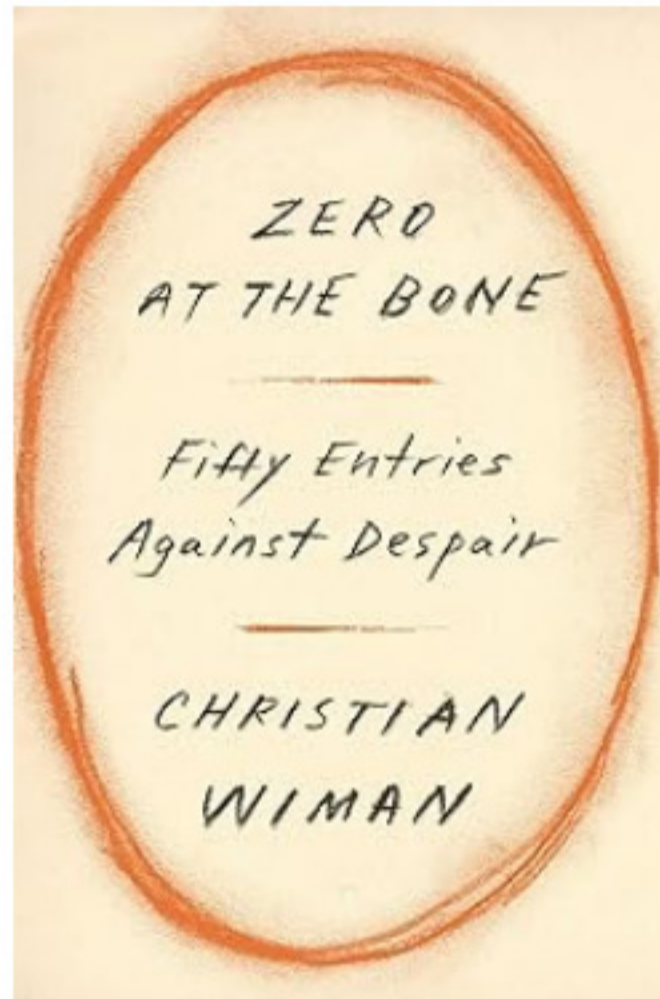
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The greatest despair is meaninglessness.



## Zero at the Bone: Fifty Entries Against Despair Hardcover – December 5, 2023

by [Christian Wiman](#) (Author)

Christian Wiman braids poetry, memoir, and criticism to create an inspired, career-defining work.

Few contemporary writers ask the questions about faith, morality, and God that Christian Wiman does, and even fewer—perhaps none—do so with his urgency and eloquence. Wiman, an award-winning poet and the author of *My Bright Abyss*, lays the motion of his mind on the page in this genre-defying work, an indivisible blend of poetry, criticism, theology, and searing memoir. As Marilynne Robinson wrote, “[Wiman’s] poetry and his scholarship have a purifying urgency that is rare in this world . . . It enables him to say new things in timeless language, so that the reader’s surprise and assent are one and the same.” *Zero at the Bone* begins with Wiman’s preoccupation with despair, and through fifty brief pieces, he unravels its seductive appeal. The book is studded with the poetry and prose of writers who inhabit Wiman’s thoughts, and the voices of Wallace Stevens, Lucille Clifton, Emily Dickinson, and others join his own. At its heart and Wiman’s, however, are his family—his young children (who ask their own invaluable questions, like “Why are you a poet? I mean why?”), his wife, and those he grew up with in West Texas. Wiman is the rare thinker who takes up the mantle of our greatest mystics and does so with an honest, profound, and contemporary sensibility. *Zero at the Bone* is a revelation.

Raised in the small West Texas town of Snyder,[1] he graduated from Washington and Lee University and has taught at Northwestern University, Stanford University, Lynchburg College, and the Prague School of Economics. In 2003, he became editor of the oldest American magazine of verse, *Poetry*,[2] a role he stepped down from in June 2013.[3] Wiman is now on the faculty of Yale University, where he teaches courses on Religion and Literature at Yale Divinity School[4] and the Yale Institute of Sacred Music. His first book of poetry, *The Long Home* (Story Line Press, 1997) and reprinted by Copper Canyon Press (2007), won the Nicholas Roerich Prize. His 2010 book, *Every Riven Thing* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2010), was chosen by poet and critic Dan Chiasson as one of the best poetry books of 2010.[6] His book *Ambition and Survival: Becoming a Poet* (Copper Canyon Press, 2007) reviewed by *The New York Times Book Review*,[7] is “a collection of personal essays and critical prose on a wide range of subjects: reading *Paradise Lost* in Guatemala, recalling violent episodes from the poet’s youth, traveling in Africa with an eccentric father, as well as a series of penetrating essays on poets, poetry, and poetry’s place in our lives. The book concludes with a portrait of Wiman’s diagnosis with a rare cancer, and a clear-eyed declaration of what it means — for an artist and a person — to have faith in the face of death.” His poems, criticism, and personal essays appear widely in such magazines as *The Atlantic*, *Harper’s Bazaar*, *The New York Times Book Review*, *The New Yorker* and *The Sewanee Review*. [8] Clive James describes Wiman’s poems as being “insistent on being read aloud, in a way that so much from America is determined not to be. His rhymes and line-turnovers are all carefully placed to intensify the speech rhythms, making everything dramatic: not shoutingly so, but with a steady voice that tells an ideal story every time.”

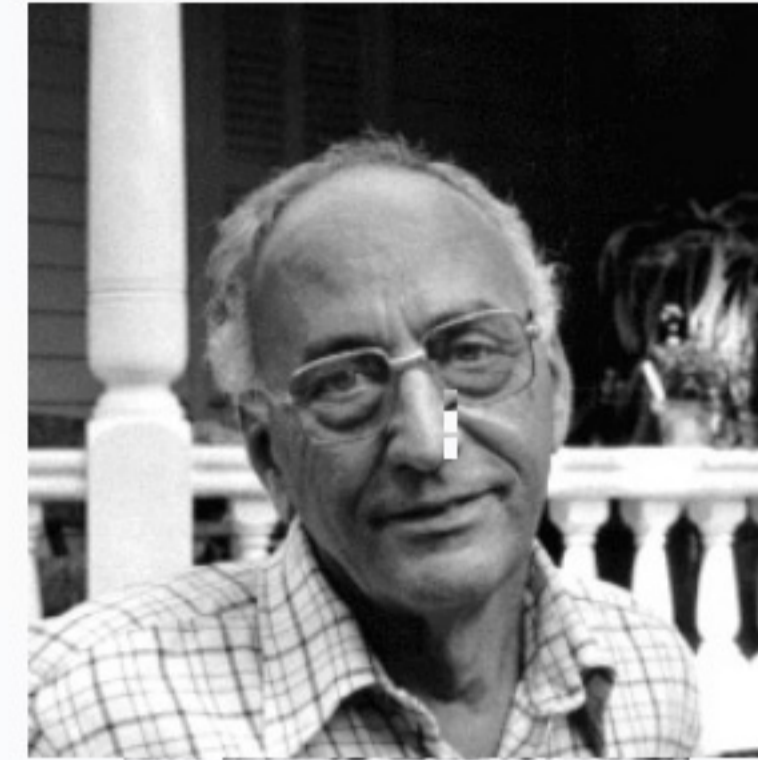


Christian Wiman is the author of more than a dozen books of poetry and prose. He’s been a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award and served as editor of *POETRY* magazine.

*Danielle Chapman/FSG*



## William Bronk



**Born** 17 February 1918  
[Fort Edward, New York](#)

**Died** 22 February 1999 (aged 81)  
[Hudson Falls, New York](#)

### William Bronk, "*The World*"

I thought you were an anchor in the drift of the world.  
But no, there isn't an anchor anywhere.  
There isn't an anchor in the drift of the world.  
Oh, no. I thought you were. Oh, no.  
The drift of the world.

TERRY GROSS: I love that poem, and I want you to describe why you love it.

CHRISTIAN WIMAN: Well, it articulates a kind of sadness that probably we all experience in our life at some point. We think we've found some sort of anchor in the world, and that, too, is pulled away from us. I love the sound of it. I love the way it creates its effects with nothing but simple repetition. It's hard to realize this without having it in front of you, but in the opening line of that poem, there's an anchor, and then that anchor gets mentioned in the next two lines as well, and then it gets deleted in the third line. And the effect is if the anchor - you expect the anchor to appear there, but it doesn't, and it's as if it's been lifted up in that third line. So there's a paradoxical sense of levity in this poem so that it gives a - like a lot of poetry about despair, it gives a complicated feeling of despair and buoyancy.

You know, to write a poem is an act of faith. I don't - even the most stark poems of despair, like Philip Larkin's "Aubade," where he says, *I work all day and get half-drunk at night. Waking at 4 to soundless dark, I stare* - he talks about just facing death in that poem. Even a poem like that, I think, is an act toward life, is a movement toward life. And it's often why I don't really even understand the phrase secular poetry. People say that, and I think - 'cause I think that a lot of the what I think of as faith is carried on by poets who are not religious people, but the poems they write are acts of faith. And if the faith doesn't have an object for them, fine. It barely has an object for me much of the time. And so I find a lot of hope in poems like this by William Bronk, who certainly wasn't a religious person.

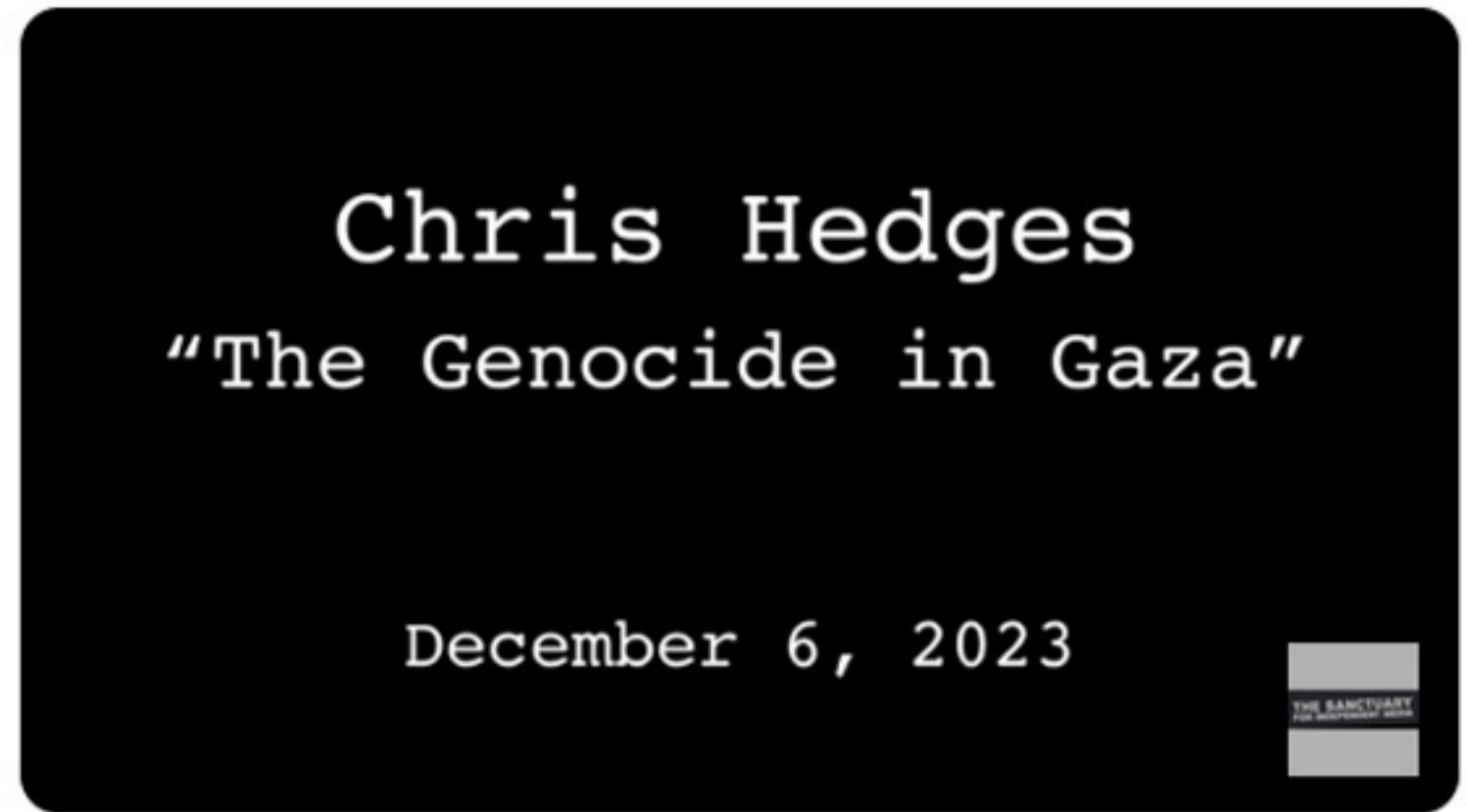
TERRY GROSS: Did you ever feel like God was your anchor and - you know, in the drift of the world, and then like, oh, no, there is no anchor?

CHRISTIAN WIMAN: Definitely. And that's exactly why I'm so moved by that - those - that line of Jesus on the cross. My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? Absolutely. I think that that - the sense of the void is an absolutely essential essence of Christianity. That's what that moment teaches us. That is an essential part of Christianity. Simone Weil says there are two atheisms of which one is a purification of God. What she means by that is that there's one kind of atheism that's just shallow and not worth bothering about. But then there's another kind that's quite serious and is actually part of the life of any person of faith. We have to purify ourselves of the God that's up in the sky and the God that is an object and the God that is an answer to all of life's questions.

William Bronk was born in Fort Edward, New York in 1918, and he grew up in Hudson Falls, New York. He studied at Dartmouth College and Harvard University. Bronk won the American Book Award in 1982 for his collection *Life Supports*. His many other books of poetry include *Metaphor of Trees and Last Poems* (1999), *Some Words* (1992), *Death Is the Place* (1989), *That Beauty Still* (1978), *The World, the Worldless* (1964), and *Light and Dark* (1956).

In poems that have often been compared to those of Wallace Stevens, William Bronk investigates the nature of consciousness, time and space, and the poetic fictions that will suffice in an age of disbelief and uncertainty. As Michael Heller remarks in the *New York Times Book Review*, Bronk's poetry "offers another way of looking at our common humanity, not in some imagined concurrence of shared knowledge, but in our need to construct and reconstruct worlds, in our attempts to appease a common metaphysical hunger." Many critics also note that his meditative and experimental poems use a language stripped of ornament, imagery, and metaphor. "His poetry of statement," comments *Saturday Review* contributor Robert D. Spector, "impresses with its clarity and precision of language; it manages to make metaphysics a subject of human emotion rather than a grand abstraction." Bronk's poetry considers the limits of human knowledge. "The natural world, Bronk would insist, is a world we can never know," explains Heller. Consequently, Heller noted, Bronk's work suggests that the recognition of this basic estrangement between man and nature "illuminates and clarifies the human situation." To address this understanding and the need for "well-composed" worlds, Bronk searches for the appropriate form, style, and language. Ellmann declares in the *New York Times Book Review*: "Every new volume of his poems is engraved with terse statement, a high seriousness and strong uncluttered feeling. With each new volume he seems to be determined to make his utterance all the more specific, determined and quiet, as if he wrote his poems in the voice and with the mind in which we all truly sometimes think, beautifully and sublimely, through our perceptions." Heller also applauds Bronk's attempt to find a suitable language for describing human perception and its limits; he notes that Bronk seeks to discover "the exacting and naked process of realization."





465,624 views Premiered Dec 8, 2023

0:18 The Genocide in Gaza

42:10 Letter to the Children of Gaza

52:27 Audience Q&A

Best-selling author, foreign correspondent, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Chris Hedges addressed the Middle East crisis with a talk titled "The Genocide in Gaza" on December 6, 2023 at The Sanctuary for Independent Media in North Troy NY.

[www.mediasanctuary.org](http://www.mediasanctuary.org)



### About

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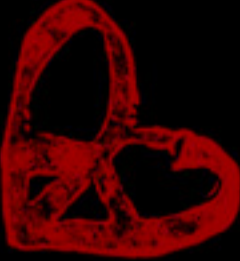


lovepeace




42:10 > **a letter to the children of Gaza**

Chris Hedges  
"The Genocide in Gaza"



December 6, 2023

lovepeace

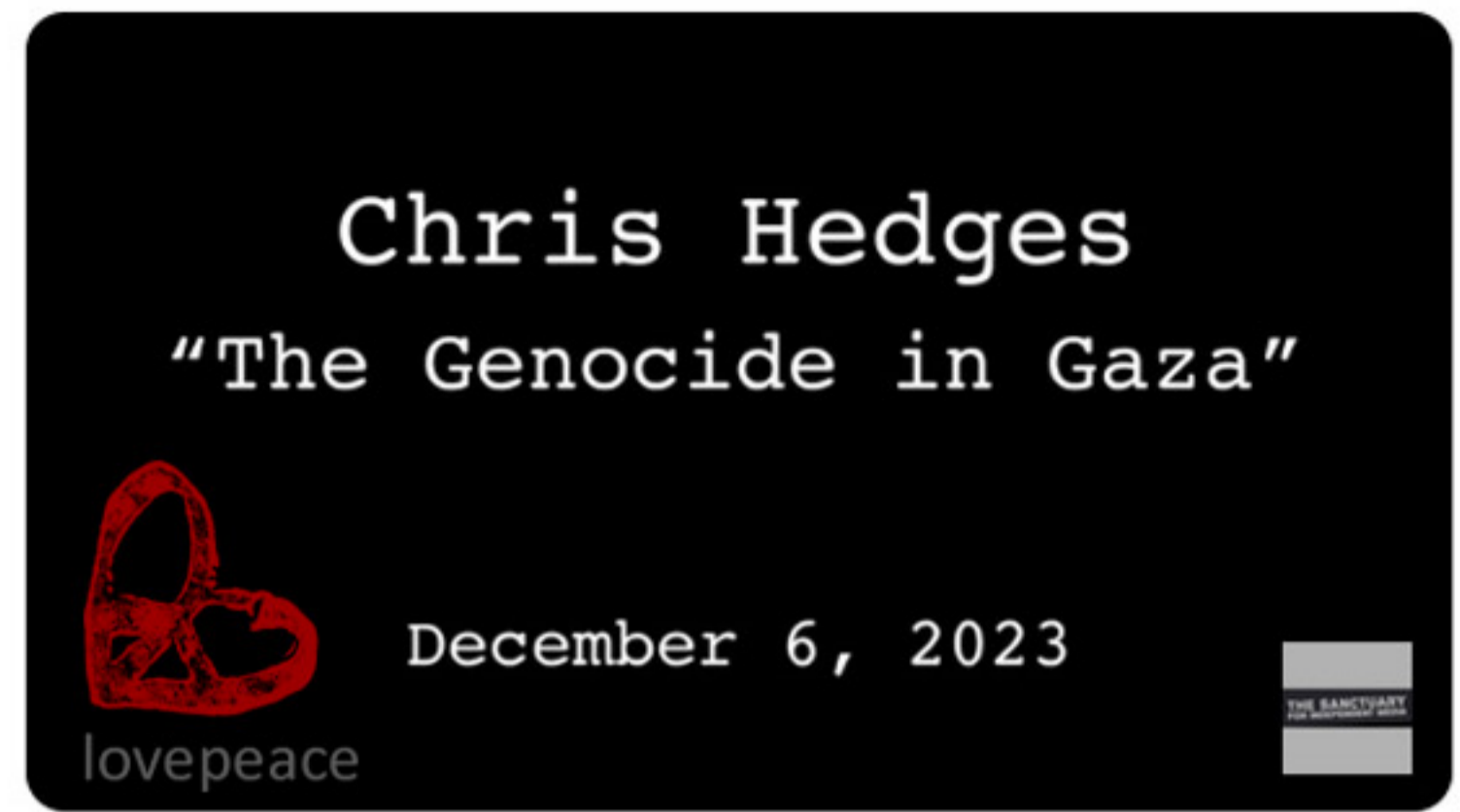


We have failed you.  
This is the awful guilt we carry.  
We tried, but we did not try hard enough.



## a letter to the children of Gaza

**Dear child,** It is past midnight I am flying at hundreds of miles an hour in the darkness thousands of feet over the Atlantic Ocean I'm traveling to Egypt I will go to the border of Gaza at Rafa I go because of you you have never been in a plane you have never left Gaza you know only the densely packed streets and alleys the concrete HS you know only the security barriers and fences patrolled by soldiers that surround Gaza planes for you are terrifying fighter jets Attack Helicopters drones they Circle above you they drop missiles and bombs deafening explosions the ground shakes buildings fall the Dead the screams the muffled calls for help from beneath the rubble it does not stop night and day trapped under the piles of smashed concrete your Playmates your schoolmates your neighbors gone in seconds you see the chalky faces and Limp bodies when they are dug out I am a reporter it is my job to see this you are a child you should never see this the stench of death rotting corpses under the broken concrete you hold your breath you cover your mouth with a cloth you walk faster your neighborhood has become a graveyard all that was familiar is gone you stare in amazement you wonder where you are you are afraid explosion after explosion you cry you cling to your mother or father you cover your ears you see the white light of the missile and wait for the blast why do they kill children what did you do why can't anyone protect you will you be wounded will you lose a leg or an arm will you go blind or be in a wheelchair why were you born was it for something good or was it for this will you grow up will you be happy what will it be like without your friends who will die next your mother your father your brothers and sisters someone you know will be injured soon someone you know will die soon at night you lie in the dark on the cold cement floor the phones are cut the internet is off you do not know what is happening there are flashes of light there are waves of blast concussions there are screams it does not stop when your father or mother hunts for food or water you wait that terrible feeling in your stomach will they come back will you see them again will your tiny home be next will the bombs find you are these your last moments on Earth you drink salty dirty water it makes you very sick your stomach hurts you are hungry the bakeries are destroyed there is no bread you eat one meal a day pasta a cucumber soon this will seem like a feast you do not play with your soccer ball made of Rags you do not fly your kite made from old newspapers you have seen foreign reporters we wear Flack jackets with the word press written on them we have helmets we have cameras we drive Jeeps we appear after a bombing or a shooting we sit over a coffee for a long time and talk to the adults then we disappear we do not usually interview children but I have done interviews when groups of you crowded around us laughing pointing asking us to take your picture I have been bombed by jets in Gaza I have been bombed in other Wars wars that happened before you were born I too was very very scared I still have dreams about it when I see the picture pictures of Gaza these Wars Return to me with a force of thunder and lightning I think of you all of us who've been to War Hate War most



of all because of what it does to children I tried to tell your story I tried to tell the world that when you are cruel to people week after week month after month year after year decade after decade when you deny people freedom and dignity when you humiliate and trap them in an open air prison when you kill them as if they were beasts they become very angry they do to others what was done to them I told it over and over I told it for seven years few listened and now this there are very brave Palestinian journalists 50 of them have been killed since this bombing began they are heroes so are the doctors and nurses in your hospitals so are the UN workers almost a hundred of whom have been killed so are the ambulance drivers and Medics so are the rescue parties that lift up the slabs of concrete with their hands so are the mothers and fathers who Shield you from the bombs but we are not there not this time we cannot get in we are locked out reporters from all over the world are going to the border crossing at Rafa we are going because because we cannot watch this slaughtering and do nothing we are going because hundreds of people are dying a day including over a hundred children we are going because this genocide must stop we are going because we have children like you precious innocent loved we are going because we want you to live I hope one day we will meet you will be an adult I will be an old man although to you I am already very old in my dream for you I will find you free and safe and happy no one will be trying to kill you you will fly in airplanes filled with people not bombs you will not be trapped in a concentration camp you will see the world you will grow up up and have children you will become old you will remember this suffering but you will know it means you must help others who suffer this is my hope my prayer we have failed you this is the awful guilt we carry we tried but we did not try hard enough we we go to Rafa many of us reporters we will stand outside the border with Gaza and protest we will write and film this is what we do it is not much but it is something you will tell your story again **maybe it will be enough to earn the right to ask for your forgiveness. Thank you. I want to thank you on behalf of all of us.**



**The Palestinian BDS National Committee** is the broadest Palestinian civil society coalition that works to lead and support the BDS movement for Palestinian rights. The broad consensus among Palestinian civil society about the need for a broad and sustained Campaign for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) resulted in the Palestinian Call for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) against Israel that was launched in July 2005 with the initial endorsement of over 170 Palestinian organizations. The signatories to this call represent the three major components of the Palestinian people: the refugees in exile, Palestinians under occupation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and the discriminated Palestinian citizens of the Israeli state. The efforts to coordinate the BDS campaign, that began to grow rapidly since the 2005 Call was made public, culminated in the first Palestinian BDS Conference held in Ramallah in November 2007. Out of this conference emerged the BDS National Committee (BNC) as the Palestinian coordinating body for the BDS campaign worldwide.

**The BNC's mandate and role is:**

- To strengthen and spread the culture of boycott as a central form of civil resistance to Israeli occupation, colonialism and apartheid
- To formulate strategies and programs of action in accordance with the 9 July 2005 Palestinian Civil Society BDS Call
- To serve as the Palestinian reference point for BDS campaigns in the region and worldwide
- To serve as the national reference point for anti-normalization campaigns within Palestine
- To facilitate coordination and provide support & encouragement to the various BDS campaign efforts in all locations

The BNC has offices in various parts of Palestine, a small staff spread across five countries and a network of international partners

**The BNC's main activities include:**

- Campaigning with BDS activists locally and worldwide by preparing and disseminating BNC statements and public speaking
- Advocacy by briefing and lobbying policy makers
- Monitoring & Rapid Response by means of BNC calls for action against projects and initiatives which amount to recognition of or cooperation with Israel's regime of apartheid, colonialism and occupation (i.e., normalization)
- Media Outreach in Palestine and abroad, based on a professional media strategy
- Coordination with BDS activists locally and worldwide, including preparation of regional and international organizing meetings and conferences
- Awareness Raising & Training activists and organizations about BNC analysis, standards and BDS campaign work; through workshops, BNC information materials and the BDS campaign website ([www.bdsmovement.net](http://www.bdsmovement.net))
- Developing the BDS Campaign in Arab countries
- Research and BDS Strategy Development

## Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions

|   |  |
|---|--|
|  |  |
| <b>Abbreviation</b>   | BDS  |
| <b>Formation</b>  | 9 July 2005 <sup>[1]</sup>   |
| <b>Founder</b>  | Omar Barghouti, <sup>[2]</sup> Ramy Shaat <sup>[3]</sup>   |
| <b>Type</b>   | Nonprofit organization   |
| <b>Purpose</b>  | Boycotts, political activism   |
| <b>General Coordinator</b>  | Mahmoud Nawajaa <sup>[4]</sup>   |
| <b>Main organ</b>   | Palestinian BDS National Committee <sup>[5]</sup>  |
| <b>Website</b>  | <a href="https://bdsmovement.net/">bdsmovement.net</a>  |

Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) is a Palestinian-led movement promoting boycotts, divestments, and economic sanctions against Israel. Its objective is to pressure Israel to meet what the BDS movement describes as Israel's obligations under international law, defined as withdrawal from the occupied territories, removal of the separation barrier in the West Bank, full equality for Arab-Palestinian citizens of Israel, and "respecting, protecting, and promoting the rights of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and properties". The movement is organized and coordinated by the Palestinian BDS National Committee.

BDS is modeled after the Anti-Apartheid Movement. Its proponents compare the Palestinians' plight to that of apartheid-era black South Africans. Protests and conferences in support of the movement have been held in several countries. Its mascot, which features on its logotype, is Handala, a symbol of Palestinian identity and "right of return".

Some critics accuse the BDS movement of antisemitism, a charge the movement denies, calling it an attempt to conflate antisemitism with anti-Zionism. The Israel lobby in the United States has made opposing BDS one of its top priorities. Since 2015, the Israeli government has spent millions of dollars to promote the view that BDS is antisemitic and have it legally banned in foreign countries. BDS supporters see it as a human rights movement.

### ANALYSIS

## "Everything is intentional" - Israel's "factory" of mass murder in Gaza

December 15, 2023 /

By:  
Palestinian BDS National Committee  
(BNC)

### IN THE NEWS

## Senior UN Official Resigns Over UN's Failure to Stop Israel's "Text-book Case of Genocide" Against Palestinians

SANCTIONS AND GOVERNMENTS

October 28, 2023 / By: Craig Mokhiber





## The Chris Hedges Report

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Chris Hedges is “a man who, in a climate of obfuscation, confusion, deceit and plain old intimidation, seeks to speak the truth.” - Oliver Stone

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The parameters of acceptable journalist inquiry has dramatically narrowed over the nearly four decades I have been a reporter and author. Newspapers, where I began my career, have atrophied or died. The electronic media is in the hands of a half dozen corporations that impose a uniformity of opinion and ban the views of us who decry the crimes of empire, the permanent war economy, the apartheid state of Israel, our money saturated political process and social inequality. Whistleblowers, the life blood of investigative journalism, have been virtually silenced through a combination of wholesale government surveillance—the reason Edward Snowden immediately left the country after revealing that we were all being watched, tracked and monitored by the government—and the misuse of the Espionage Act to prosecute those who reveal government malfeasance and crimes. Julian Assange, who never committed a crime, is on the verge of being extradited to the United States and spending the rest of his life in prison, setting a dangerous legal precedent that criminalizes anyone who possesses or publishes government secrets, as other investigative reporters and I did at The New York Times. Algorithms imposed by digital media platforms such as Google, Facebook and Twitter, shadow ban critics or, as in the case of the New York Post, which was locked out of its own account so it could not disseminate the contents found on Hunter Biden’s laptop, censor them. America’s premier investigative journalist, Sy Hersh, who exposed the war crimes at My Lai and Abu Ghraib, has difficulty publishing in the United States.

My television show on TeleSur, which was later broadcast on RT America, went off the air when these two media outlets were shut down. The staff of Truthdig and I were fired by the wealthy publisher when we went on strike to protest her attempt to fire the legendary Editor-in-Chief Bob Scheer and demand a union. Bob, who had been a columnist for The Los Angeles Times, had been fired from the paper for opposing the Iraq war, similar to my own experience at The New York Times.

Substack is the last best hope for me to retain my independence and do the journalism and writing I find meaningful and impactful. The great investigative journalism, I.F. Stone, a victim of the McCarthyite witch hunts of the 1960s, unable to get a job even at The Nation magazine, founded I.F. Stone’s Weekly, which he printed in his basement. This Substack is an updated version of his weekly, begun for the same reasons and determined to replicate Stone’s fierce honesty and independence.

Corporations will not fund us. The model of relying on the wealthy does not work. The commercial press, along with National Public Radio and PBS, also heavily dependent on corporate funds, has been largely neutered. For \$ 6 dollars a month, or \$55 a year, I will be able to continue to write my weekly column and produce my weekly television show, also providing posts and reports that will be exclusively for subscribers. Please subscribe.



**100 years ago, the KKK planted bombs at a U.S. university –  
part of the terror group's crusade against American Catholics**

Published: December 15, 2023

William Trollinger, University of Dayton

*A KKK rally in Dayton, Ohio, on Sept. 21, 1923. Dayton Metro Library*







how long does it take to get over COVID?



# How long will coronavirus last

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The COVID-19 recovery period depends on the severity of the illness. You can expect to recover within 10 days to two weeks if you have mild COVID-19 symptoms. It may take months to feel better for more severe cases.<sup>2</sup> Some people with severe symptoms may require hospitalization. Aug 6, 2023

Coronavirus lasts in the body depends on the person to person and severity of infection. People who tested positive for COVID-19 should isolate themselves for a certain period to avoid transmission



Health

https://www.health.com › Infectious Diseases › COVID-19

## How Long Does COVID-19 Last? What To Expect - Health

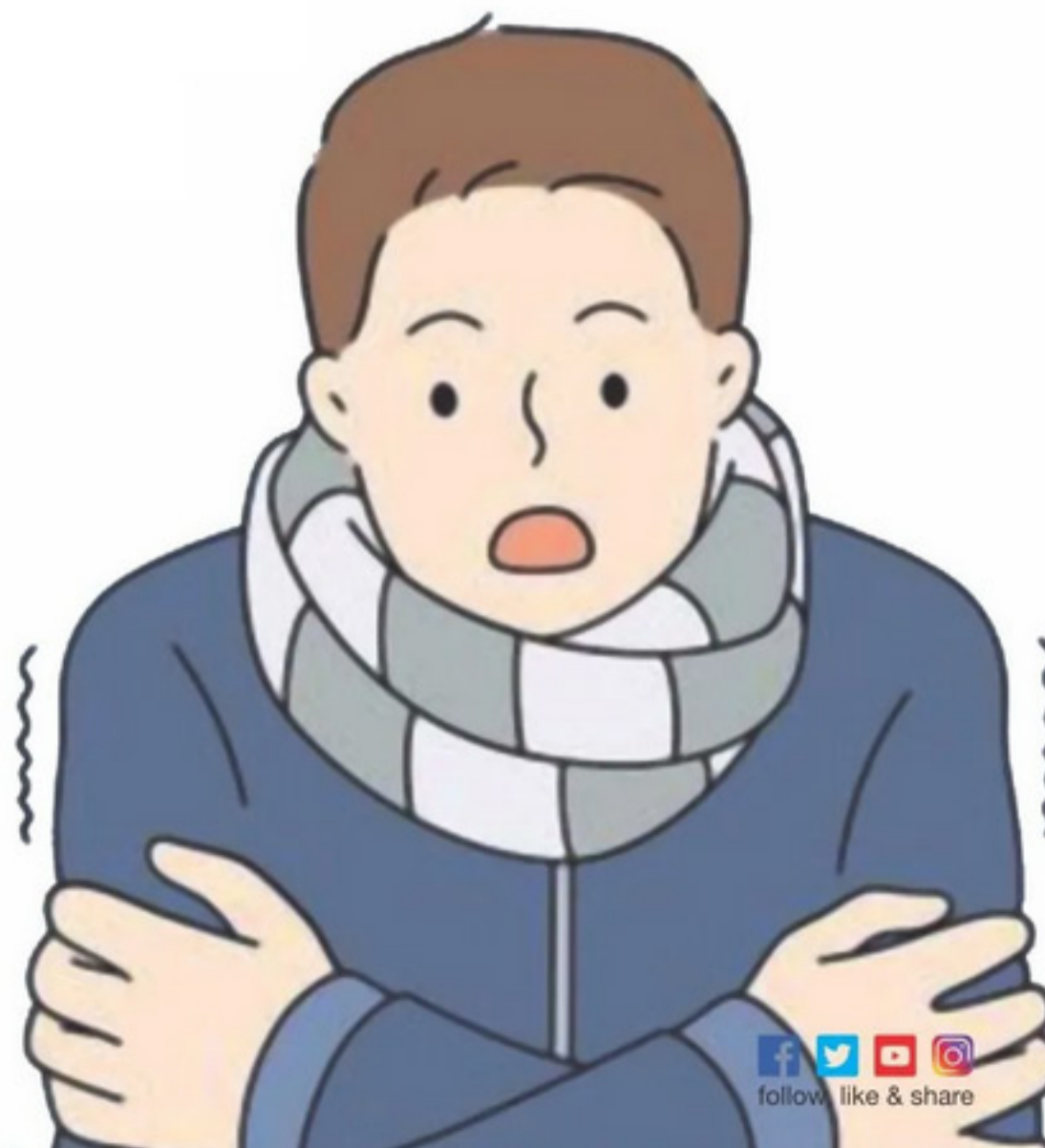
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When will I start feeling better from COVID?

When are you no longer contagious with COVID?

How do I get rid of COVID quicker?









The charisma of **Timothee Chakamet** in *"Wonka"*





Quora

### Question

What would happen if a 2nd (American) **Civil War** and **World War 3** broke out at the same time?

- 0:00 [Music]
- 0:03 since the last episode was focused on
- 0:05 happiness and positivity
- 0:06 let's go the opposite direction for this
- 0:08 one we'll start with a

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[Will a us civil war lead to ww3?](#)

Due to the development of nuclear weapons in the Manhattan Project, which were used in the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki near the end of World War II, and their subsequent acquisition and deployment by many countries afterward, the potential risk of a nuclear apocalypse causing inevitable widespread mass destruction of Earth's civilizations and life is a common theme in speculations about a third world war. Another primary concern is that biological warfare could cause mass casualties. It could happen intentionally or inadvertently, by an accidental release of a biological agent, the unexpected mutation of an agent, or its adaptation to other species after use. Large-scale apocalyptic events like these, caused by advanced technology used for destruction, could render most of Earth's surface uninhabitable. Before the beginning of World War II in 1939, World War I (1914–1918) was believed to have been "the war to end all wars". It was popularly believed that never again could there possibly be a global conflict of such magnitude. During the interwar period, World War I was typically referred to simply as "The Great War". The outbreak of World War II disproved the hope that humanity might have "outgrown" the need for widespread global wars.

With the advent of the Cold War in 1947 and the spread of nuclear weapons and technology to the Soviet Union, the possibility of a third global conflict increased. During the Cold War, the possibility of a third world war was anticipated and planned for by military and civil personnel in various countries. Scenarios ranged from conventional warfare to limited or total nuclear warfare. At the height of the Cold War, the doctrine of mutually assured destruction (MAD), which determined that an all-out nuclear confrontation would destroy all of the states involved in the conflict, developed. The potential for the absolute destruction of the human species may have contributed to both American and Soviet leaders avoiding such a scenario.

The various global military conflicts that have occurred since the start of the 21st century, most recently the Syrian Civil War ongoing since 2011 and the Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022, alongside recent rising tensions between the United States and China, have been perceived as potential flashpoints or triggers for a third world war



## World War III or 2nd American Civil War: Which is More Likely?



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Caimans gather on the banks of the almost dried-up Bento Gomes River in the Pantanal wetlands near Pocone, Mato Grosso state, Brazil, Nov. 15, 2023.  
(AP Photo/Andre Penner)







1 of 50

Haitian migrants waded through a river as they cross the Darien Gap from Colombia to Panama in hopes of reaching the United States, May 9, 2023. (AP Photo/Ivan Valencia)

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Supporters of opposition leader, Santa Cruz Gov. Luis Fernando Camacho who faces terrorism charges, protest his arrest, blocking a road in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, Jan. 3, 2023. (AP Photo/Juan Karita)

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An anti-government protester, who traveled to the capital from across the country to march against Peruvian President Dina Boluarte, is detained during clashes in Lima, Peru, Jan. 19, 2023. (AP Photo/Martin Mejia)

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Music fans attend the “Here we are” festival, in celebration of Women’s History Month, in Montevideo, Uruguay, March 19, 2023. (AP Photo/Matilde Campodonico)

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Supporters of opposition leader, Santa Cruz Gov. Luis Fernando Camacho who faces terrorism charges, protest his arrest, blocking a road in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, Jan. 3, 2023. (AP Photo/Juan Karita)





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Residents attend a vigil for people who died during the social unrest caused by the ouster of President Pedro Castillo, in Juliaca, Peru, Jan. 10, 2023. (AP Photo/Jose Sotomayor)

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A grocery seller waits for customers at the “Feria de Ramos,” or Palm Fair, in El Alto, Bolivia, April 2, 2023. The Palm Fair, which began as a way to recreate the livestock markets of biblical times, is currently dominated by all sorts of informal trade. (AP Photo/Juan Karita)

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Mexican Lucha Libre wrestler Cinta De Oro or Golden Ribbon, looks at Claude Monet's "Water Lillies" painting during the inauguration of the "Monet: Lights of Impressionism" exhibit, at the National Arts Museum, in Mexico City, April 26, 2023. (AP Photo/Fernando Llano)

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Lithium processes in a pool of brine at the SQM mine under the sun in Chile's Atacama desert, April 18, 2023. (AP Photo/Rodrigo Abd)





**A migrant appeals to Texas National Guardsmen standing behind razor wire on a river bank of the Rio Grande, as seen from Matamoros, Mexico, May 11, 2023. (AP Photo/Fernando Llano)**





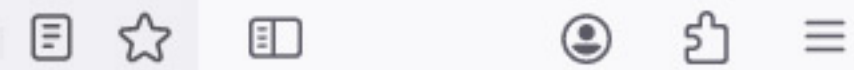
**Residents grieve near the body of a man, killed in unknown circumstances, on a street in Duran, Ecuador, July 21, 2023, amid a serious outbreak of violence that authorities attribute to disputes among organized crime groups. (AP Photo/Dolores Ochoa)**





Migrants hoping to get into the United States sit atop a northbound freight train, in Irapuato, Mexico, Sept. 23, 2023. (AP Photo/Marco Ugarte)





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A tourist arrives in a classic American car for a cabaret show at the Tropicana performance hall in Havana, Cuba, Nov. 2, 2023. (AP Photo/Ramon Espinosa)

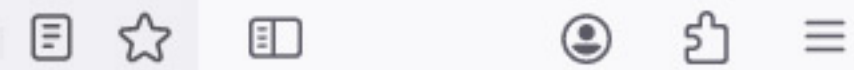
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Groom and bride watch an annular solar eclipse before the start of their wedding ceremony, in Merida, Mexico, Oct. 14, 2023. (AP Photo/Martin Zetina)



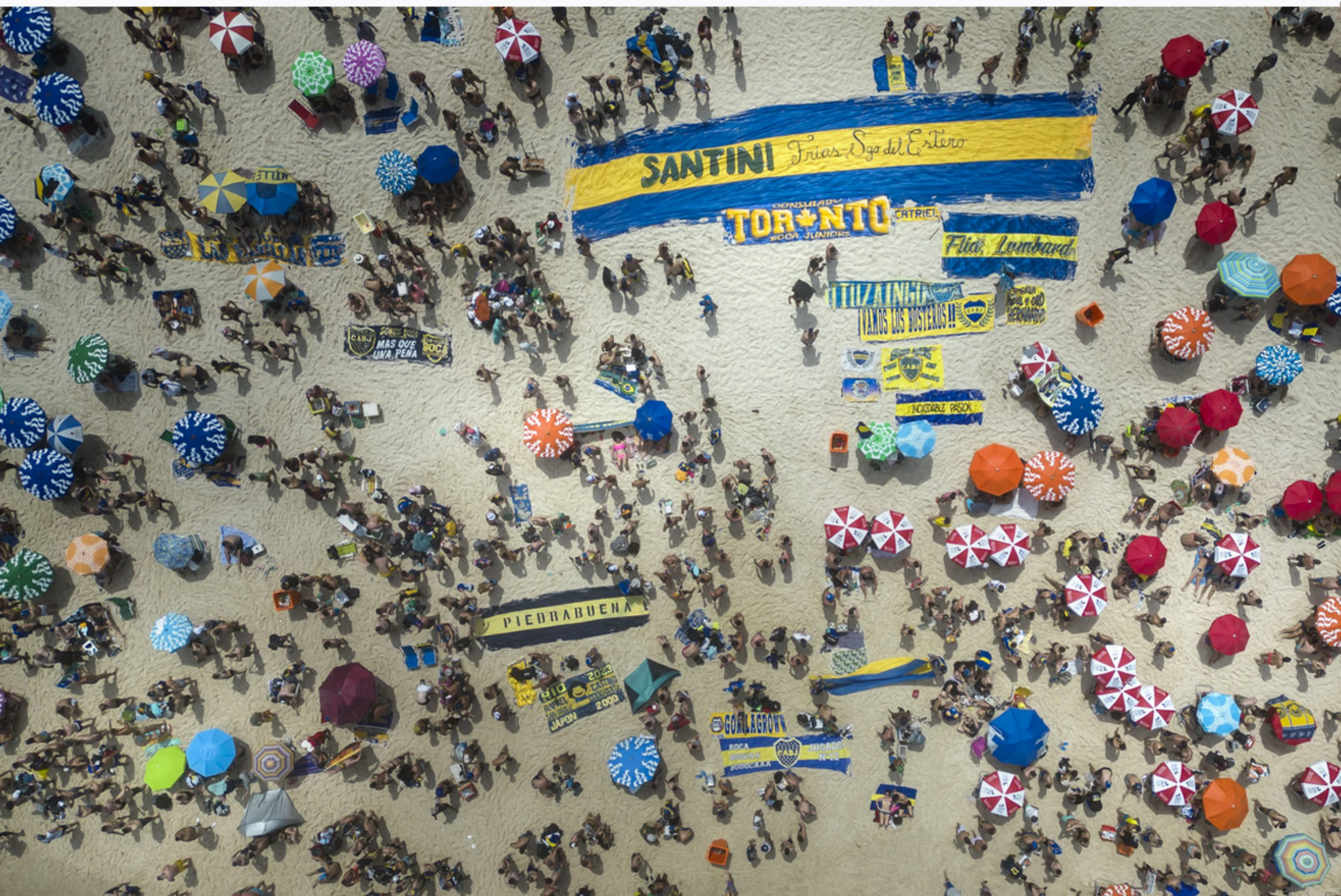
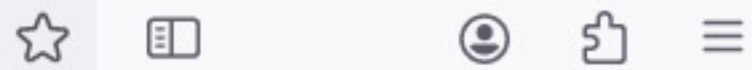


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A demonstrator dressed as Batman villain the Joker, holds a Panamanian national flag during a protest against an approved mining contract between the government and Canadian mining company First Quantum, in Panama City, Oct. 31, 2023. Weeks later Panama's Supreme Court declared the contract unconstitutional. (AP Photo/Arnulfo Franco)

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Argentine Boca Juniors fans gather on Copacabana beach the day before their team faces Fluminense in a Copa Libertadores soccer championship match, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Nov. 3, 2023. (AP Photo/Bruna Prado)



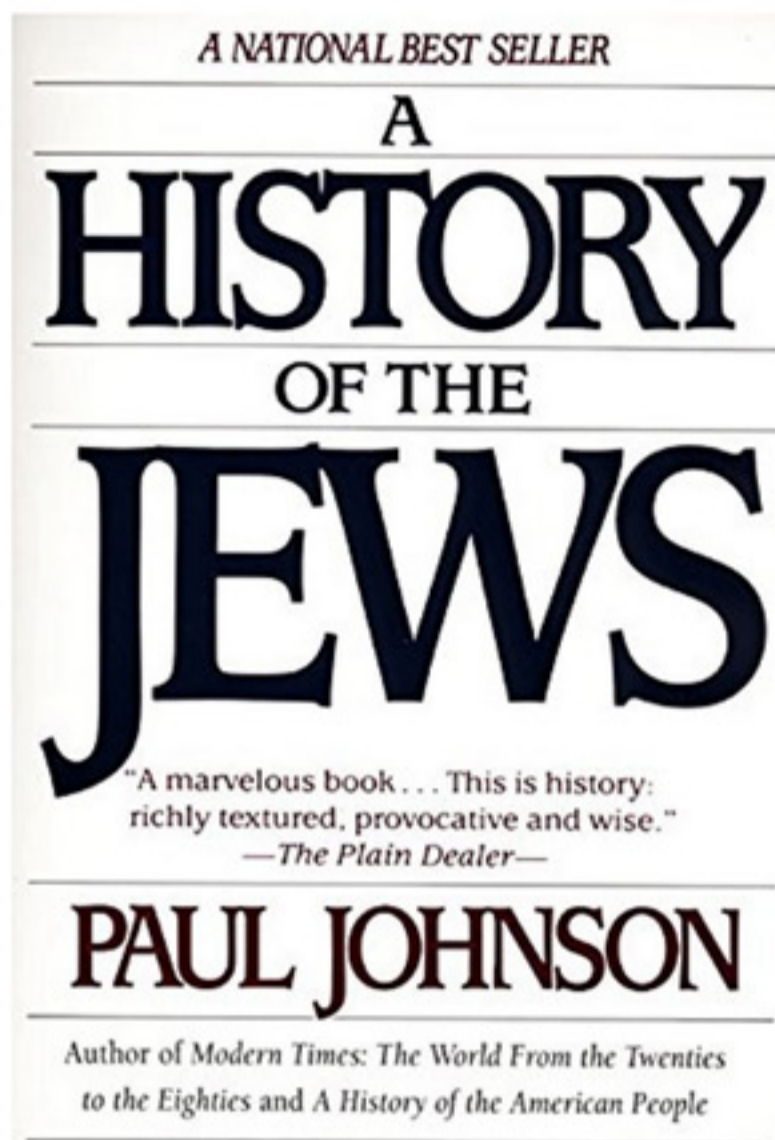
# San Diego County California Defense Contractors United States Government Contracts

## Defense Contract Totals for Contractors in San Diego County CA from 2000 to 2020

| * Dollar Amount   |                             | County Details                          |
|---|-----------------------------|---|
| County & State  |                             | <b>San Diego County California (CA)</b> |
| Number of Defense Contractors in this County                              |                             | 6,079                                   |
| Defense Contracts Awarded to Contractors in this County from 2000 to 2020 |                             | \$160,063,353,189                       |
| Defense Contracts Awarded to Contractors in this County from 2000 to 2020 |                             | 299,448                                 |
| Defense Contract Totals for Contractors in this County                    |                             |   |
| Contract Count/Contract Dollar Amount                                     |                             |   |
| 2020  | 63,494/<br>\$10,443,968,308 |   |
| 2019  | 55,448/<br>\$11,743,032,632 |   |
| 2018  | 37,155/<br>\$10,111,900,867 |   |
| 2017  | 15,912/<br>\$9,165,636,937  |   |
| 2016  | 15,177/<br>\$8,509,349,501  |   |
| 2015  | 10,967/<br>\$7,743,169,084  |   |
| 2014  | 8,162/<br>\$7,458,200,384   |   |
| 2013  | 8,101/<br>\$7,967,818,365   |   |
| 2012  | 8,727/<br>\$10,093,118,638  |   |
| 2011  | 8,980/<br>\$10,715,577,823  |   |
| 2010  | 8,885/<br>\$11,003,067,361  |   |
| 2009  | 8,753/<br>\$10,453,665,868  |   |
| 2008  | 8,768/<br>\$8,246,624,591   |   |
| 2007  | 8,670/<br>\$6,877,073,786   |   |
| 2006  | 7,764/<br>\$5,244,359,276   |   |
| 2005  | 8,081/<br>\$5,753,362,168   |   |
| 2004  | 4,776/<br>\$5,064,141,760   |   |
| 2003  | 4,349/<br>\$4,537,384,393   |   |

| Government Contractor Name & Address  | Number of Defense Contracts | Dollar Amount of Defense Contracts Awarded |
|---|-----------------------------|--|
| <u>MOLLOY, MARIE</u><br>4203 GENESEE AVE #103 PMB<br>SAN DIEGO, CA 92117                          | 5                           | \$12,505                                   |
| <u>MOLLYCODDLERS, LLC</u><br>4310 DEER VALLEY WAY<br>OCEANSIDE, CA 92057-6511                     | 8                           | \$46,642                                   |
| <u>MOMENTUM COMPUTER INC</u><br>1815 ASTON AVENUE<br>CARLSBAD, CA 92008                           | 1                           | \$9,075                                    |
| <u>MONDERO, CECILIA</u><br>2308 CALIFORNIA ST<br>OCEANSIDE, CA 92054-5712                         | 16                          | \$142,218                                  |
| <u>MONTANO PIPELINE, INC.</u><br>233 FOURTH AVE STE 100<br>CHULA VISTA, CA 91910-2686             | 4                           | \$4,073,609                                |
| <u>MONTIJO TANK TECH</u><br>1723 MEDINAH RD<br>SAN MARCOS, CA 92069                               | 2                           | \$15,774                                   |
| <u>MOODY'S LUNCH SERVICE INC</u><br>4637 MARKET ST<br>SAN DIEGO, CA 92102                         | 8                           | \$123,506                                  |
| <u>MOODY, PATRICIA</u><br>360 ORANGE AVE<br>CORONADO, CA 92118-1455                               | 9                           | \$163,524                                  |
| <u>MOOR CO AIR CONDITIONING AND H</u><br>1531 S COAST HWY<br>OCEANSIDE, CA 92054                  | 2                           | \$18,843                                   |
| <u>MOOR REFUSE INC</u><br>412 CROSBY ST<br>SAN DIEGO, CA 92113                                    | 2                           | \$492                                      |
| <u>MOORE, DONALD J</u><br>3693 LANDFAIR CT<br>SAN DIEGO, CA 92130                                 | 8                           | \$2,549,894                                |
| <u>MOORE, KEVIN</u><br>307 D AVE<br>CORONADO, CA 92118-1330                                       | 3                           | \$16,480                                   |
| <u>MORA CONSULTANTS</u><br>4002 IBIS STR #2<br>SAN DIEGO, CA 92103-1860                           | 12                          | \$753,474                                  |
| <u>MORALE WELFARE&amp;RECREATION</u><br>2375 RECREATION WAY BLDG 3303<br>SAN DIEGO, CA 92136-5518 | 1                           | \$4,675                                    |
| <u>MORAN BRIDGET</u><br>2443 CALLE SAN CLEMENTE<br>ENCINITAS, CA 92024-6606                       | 5                           | \$432,808                                  |
| <u>MOODY, PATRICIA</u><br>360 ORANGE AVE<br>CORONADO, CA 92118-1455                               | 9                           | \$163,524                                  |





### Synopsis of Paul Johnson's 'A History of the Jews' > *Google's BARD*:

Paul Johnson's "A History of the Jews" delves into the rich and complex story of the Jewish people from their ancient origins to the 20th century. Here's a synopsis that avoids sensitive topics:

**Early Beginnings:** Johnson explores the development of Judaism, its unique monotheistic beliefs, and its cultural impact on the Near East. He details the rise and fall of the Hebrew kingdoms, the Babylonian exile, and the emergence of Rabbinic Judaism.

**Diaspora and Persecution:** The book delves into the Jewish diaspora, the scattering of Jewish communities across the globe, and their encounters with various cultures and empires. Johnson examines the challenges and triumphs of Jewish communities facing persecution, discrimination, and assimilation throughout history.

**Cultural Contributions:** Johnson highlights the significant contributions of Jewish scholars, philosophers, artists, and scientists to various civilizations. He explores the development of Jewish literature, music, and religious thought, emphasizing their lasting influence on global culture.

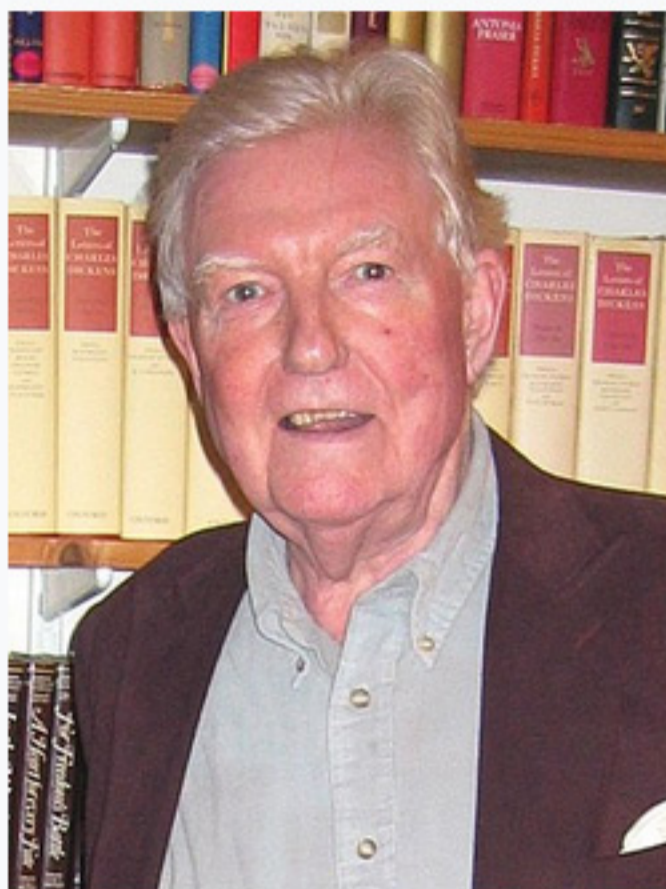
**Modernity and Zionism:** The book delves into the challenges and opportunities faced by Jews in the modern era, including emancipation, integration, and the rise of anti-Semitism. Johnson examines the development of Zionism and the establishment of the State of Israel, acknowledging the ongoing complexities and conflicts surrounding this movement.

**Overall Focus:** "A History of the Jews" emphasizes the resilience, adaptability, and cultural richness of the Jewish people throughout their long and tumultuous history. Johnson avoids dwelling on sensitive topics or portraying stereotypes, instead focusing on presenting a comprehensive and nuanced account of Jewish experiences.

Remember, this is just a brief synopsis and doesn't capture the full scope and depth of Johnson's work. If you're interested in learning more, I encourage you to explore the book yourself or seek out additional resources on Jewish history.

I hope this information is helpful and avoids any potential sensitivities.

**Paul Johnson**  
CBE



Johnson in 2005

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| <b>Born</b>        | Paul Bede Johnson<br>2 November 1928<br><a href="#">Manchester</a> , United Kingdom |
| <b>Died</b>        | 12 January 2023 (aged 94)<br>London, United Kingdom                                 |
| <b>Education</b>   | <a href="#">Stonyhurst College</a>  |
| <b>Alma mater</b>  | <a href="#">Magdalen College, Oxford</a>  |
| <b>Occupations</b> | Journalist · popular historian  |
| <b>Known for</b>   | Editor of the <i>New Statesman</i> (1965–1970)                                      |
| <b>Spouse</b>      | Marigold Hunt (m. 1958)   |
| <b>Children</b>    | 4, including <a href="#">Daniel</a> and <a href="#">Luke</a>                        |
| <b>Website</b>     | <a href="http://pauljohnsonarchives.org">pauljohnsonarchives.org</a>                |



# Noam Chomsky at 95: Still speaking hard truths, still ignored by mainstream media

After decades of opposing militarism, war and politics as usual, Chomsky's goal remains "changing the world"

By **NORMAN SOLOMON**

PUBLISHED DECEMBER 15, 2023 5:30AM (EST)



The US american social critic Noam Chomsky

One of the rare times that Noam Chomsky's name has been mentioned on a big national NPR program came two months ago. On "Weekend Edition" in mid-October, a week into Israel's murderous assault on civilians in Gaza, a correspondent reported while visiting a bookstore owned by a Palestinian in Jerusalem: "I'm seeing a lot of books by Noam Chomsky." Across the globe, people suffering from illegitimate power and violence have a lot of books by Chomsky. A recent interviewer aptly introduced him this way: "One of the world's most-cited scholars and a public intellectual regarded by millions of people as a national and international treasure, Chomsky has published more than 150 books in linguistics, political and social thought, political economy, media studies, U.S foreign policy and world affairs." Ever since his meticulous writing and strong activism against the U.S. war on Southeast Asia in the 1960s and '70s, Chomsky has been exposing Orwellian and often-deadly maneuvers by the most powerful government on Earth. Along the way, he has been tireless, humanistic and uncompromising. For many decades, the core of corporate greed and militarism has remained basically the same. So has the core of Chomsky's message. In 1982, while visiting Philadelphia, he appeared as a guest on "Fresh Air" — back then only a local program on WHYY Radio. Host Terry Gross asked: "Your radical thoughts in linguistics completely changed the field. Your radical thoughts in politics hasn't completely changed America. Has it been interesting for you to watch how your contribution to politics and linguistics has or hasn't affected things?"

"I see them very differently," Chomsky replied. "For one thing, in my view, linguistics is — well, it's basically a branch of sciences, it's hard intellectual work. Political analysis is not, quite frankly. I think it's easily within the range of an ordinary person who doesn't have any particular training and is simply willing to use common sense to pay attention to the available documentary record and to use a little diligence in searching beyond what's on the surface." Chomsky continued: "There's an elaborate pretense that this is an area that must be left to experts. But that's simply one way of protecting power from scrutiny. So my own interest in political analysis and writing and so on is simply to bring information to people who I think can use it for the purposes of changing the world." His anti-elitism has endured, and so has enmity from some elites. One response is to block access to mainstream media. "Fresh Air" is a case in point. A search of the program's full archive shows that after it went national on NPR in the mid-1980s, "Fresh Air" never interviewed Chomsky again. The program's local interview with him back in 1982 was the first and last. With few exceptions, Chomsky has been persona non grata in major U.S. media throughout his career — although that's certainly not true of major media in the rest of the world. (For the record, Salon has published Chomsky's work several times and has interviewed or quoted him on numerous occasions.)

One key factor is his implacable opposition to the many wars of aggression that the U.S. government has launched or supported. A particularly unacceptable deviation from approved views has been Chomsky's illuminating condemnations of Israel's historic and ongoing suppression of Palestinian rights. For several decades, as a result, vast quantities of hostility and distortion have been directed at him. Here's a sample: In the mid-1990s, the longtime host of NPR's "All Things Considered" program, Robert Siegel — operating within a lofty "public radio" bubble — wrote a letter to the industry newspaper Current declaring that Chomsky "evidently enjoys a small, avid, and largely academic audience who seem to be persuaded that the tangible world of politics is all the result of delusion, false consciousness and media manipulation."

Chomsky, who turned 95 last week, has been spotlighting the inherent contradictions and expansive violence of Zionism for a long time. His landmark 1983 book "Fateful Triangle: The United States, Israel and the Palestinians" (an updated edition was published in 2015) dispelled many readers' illusions about the goals and consequences of U.S. support for Israel.

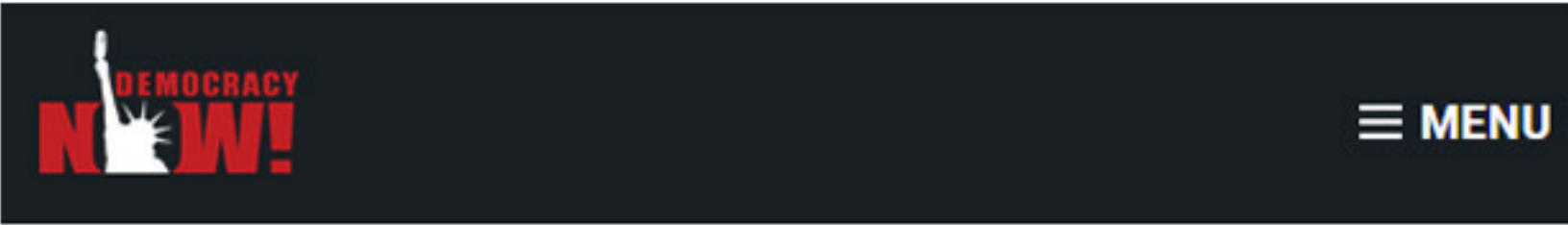
**In 1986, journalist David Barsamian launched "Alternative Radio" — a national one-hour program that got underway by bringing Chomsky's voice to listeners around the United States and far beyond.** In the nearly 40 years since then, the weekly show has aired several hundred speeches and interviews with Chomsky (whose own website also overflows with a cornucopia of vital information and analysis).

"Solidarity is not some abstract concept for him," Barsamian told me. "If you needed advice, a signature, a check, a fundraising talk, Noam would be there."

Behind the scenes, working with Chomsky for so long while seeing him interact with a wide array of people, "what always impressed me was his kindness and decency," Barsamian said. "Behind the mental acuity, stunning level of knowledge and intellectual brilliance is a mild-mannered, gentle man. Working with Noam over many years has been the most rewarding experience of my life."

If you receive an email from David Barsamian, the bottom lines will be this quote from Noam Chomsky: "If you assume that there is no hope, you guarantee that there will be no hope. If you assume there is an instinct for freedom, that there are opportunities to change things, then there is a possibility that you can contribute to making a better world."







# Legendary Linguist, Professor and Public Intellectual Noam Chomsky Turns 95

HEADLINE DEC 07, 2023



  Today is Noam Chomsky's 95th birthday. [Click here to see our interviews with the world-renowned scholar, linguist and activist on Democracy Now! about Israel, Palestine, the climate crisis and beyond.](#)

## Noam Chomsky

Linguist and activist.

 **STORY** MAY 29, 2023

**Free Julian Assange: Noam Chomsky, Dan Ellsberg & Jeremy Corbyn Lead Call at Belmarsh Tribunal**



 **STORY** JAN 23, 2023

**Free Julian Assange: Noam Chomsky, Dan Ellsberg & Jeremy Corbyn Lead Call at Belmarsh Tribunal**



 **STORY** NOV 23, 2022

**Noam Chomsky on Legacy of Radical Historian Staughton Lynd, Who Protested Korea, Vietnam & Iraq Wars**



 **STORY** OCT 10, 2022

**Noam Chomsky & Vijay Prashad: U.S. Must Stop Undermining Negotiations with Russia to End Ukraine War**



 **WEB EXCLUSIVE** SEP 30, 2022

**Noam Chomsky & Vijay Prashad: A Lula Victory in Brazil Could Help Save the Planet**



 **STORY** DEC 30, 2021

**Noam Chomsky: Corporate Patents & Rising Anti-Science Rhetoric Will Prolong Pandemic**



 **STORY** DEC 30, 2021

**Noam Chomsky on Rising Fascism in U.S., Class Warfare & the Climate Emergency**





## ***More vulnerable people live in Philadelphia neighborhoods that are less green and get hotter***

Published: December 18, 2023

Farzad Hashemi, The University of Texas at San Antonio, Guangqing Chi, Penn State, Lisa D. Iulo, Penn State, Ute Poerschke, Penn State

The ways an urban neighborhood is built and the characteristics of the people who live there are both related to how hot it gets.

*Philadelphia's neighborhoods are green and not so green.*





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It is long past time for sanctions to be imposed on Israel.


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**How liberal comedians became lap dogs for establishment power w/Lee Camp | The Chris Hedge...**

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Lenny Bruce, Richard Pryor, Mort Sahl, Bill Hicks, and George Carlin and a handful of his contemporaries, including Jimmy Dore, is not afraid to use his razor-sharp wit against our real enemies. So censorship of comics is not new, we can go back to Lenny Bruce. And also providing acerbic comics with heavy financial support to essentially buy their loyalty isn't new. But let's go back and talk in the preceding decades where we were, how that operated and where we are now. Well, first of all, thanks for having me, Chris. It's an honor to be here. Even though many of those people you mentioned in that intro, they were my heroes when I was beginning and starting out, and then I slowly got to the bottom of things, realized how the systems worked. But yeah, you're right that censorship is not new. Lenny Bruce, for those who don't know, was essentially driven to his death. I mean, he was arrested on just about every stage he would get onto towards the end of his life, simply for his words, for going against religion, for going against the government, making fun of police. He couldn't make a living. He was chased. They'd threatened his venues with taking away their liquor license. He ultimately OD'ed. So this isn't new, but I think it's almost more insidious now, because there was a very select group of gatekeepers back when there were three TV channels. And so in a way, things have opened up. You can now have all this information and it's so accessible and comedians from nowhere can go viral on YouTube and things. But if you get far enough and your criticisms are strong enough, you are not going to be accepted into those mainstream outlets. You will be banned from them. You will get pushed out of the way. Those who are still there, the people on Comedy Central regularly, the people on the

Those who are still there, the people on Comedy Central regularly, the people on these late night shows, they have made that deal with the corporations that they are not going to really question them in a large scale way. They may have a little line here or there, but they're not going to get at the heart of the inverted totalitarian system we have. Talk about Bill Hicks. You were the one who had me watch Bill Hicks. He was brilliant, but he's an example of that. He's a real great example of... his legend has grown. He was known but not really famous in America when he died. I think it was 1994. He was pretty well

279,244 views Premiered Aug 11, 2023

[The Real News Network Podcasts](#)

The fusion of politics, news, and entertainment has given prominence to comics like Jimmy Kimmel, Stephen Colbert, Seth Meyers, and Bill Maher, who serve as attack dogs for the Democratic Party, which has joined forces with the establishment wing of the old Republican Party against Donald Trump and his supporters. By belittling Trump and his followers, these comics feed the smug, self-righteousness of the ruling establishment, bolstering their sense of moral and intellectual superiority. All the while, they remain comfortably constrained by the corporations and advertisers that employ them. They function as court jesters, never questioning the right of the rulers to rule or the terrible social injustices built into a rigged system. They serve as attack dogs for establishment power, directing their comedic barbs at critics of the system, even if these critics come from the left. Comedian and political commentator Lee Camp joins The Chris Hedges Report to discuss the transformation of comedy from an art form rooted in the counterculture to one that has largely become a megaphone for power.

Lee Camp is a comedian, political commentator, and former head writer and host of the national TV show Redacted Tonight with Lee Camp on RT America. He's a former contributor to The Onion, former staff humor writer for HuffPost, and his web series "Moment of Clarity" has been viewed by millions. Camp has toured the country and the world with his fierce brand of standup comedy, and George Carlin's daughter, Kelly, credited him as one of the few comics keeping her father's torch lit. His website is [www.LeeCamp.com](http://www.LeeCamp.com).





**Lee Camp**



2016 Politicon at the Pasadena Convention Center in Pasadena, California.

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| <b>Born</b>        | c. 1980<br>Washington, D.C                             |
| <b>Alma mater</b>  | <a href="#">University of Virginia</a>                 |
| <b>Occupations</b> | Comedian · writer · journalist · political commentator |
| <b>Website</b>     | <a href="http://leecamp.net">leecamp.net</a>           |

After graduating from UVA, Camp moved to New York City where he performed regularly at the Ha! Comedy Club.[10] He went on to perform regularly at colleges and it was during this time that he started to include political material in his stand up act, which lead to performances at political events such as Netroots Nation conventions and Rock the Vote events. In the 2000s he also opened for such comedians as Jimmy Fallon, Darrell Hammond, Kevin Nealon, Tracy Morgan, Lewis Black and Dick Gregory. In 2002, Camp published his first book *Neither Sophisticated Nor Intelligent*, a collection of his best humor columns from The Cavalier Daily. With Nick Alexander and Alan Lord, Camp co-authored the 2005 BIGfib Book of Bollocks, a collection of stories from the satirical website BIGfib.com. Camp has been a contributor to The Onion and The Huffington Post. In 2017, Camp and his partner Eleanor Goldfield created the Common Censored podcast, which focuses on grassroots activism issues.

Camp was the host and head writer of the weekly comedy news show Redacted Tonight with Lee Camp, which aired on RT America for eight years. He told Rachel

Lee Camp (born c. 1980) is an American comedian, writer, podcaster, news journalist and news commentator. As a television host he presented the show Redacted Tonight for several years on the Russian state-funded network RT America until it was shut down after Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.[3] In July 2022, he started a new show, Most Censored News with Lee Camp with MintPress News. On YouTube Lee Camp has a news show called Dangerous Ideas with Lee Camp. Camp was born at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. His father was a military doctor. Camp is of Jewish heritage and has two brothers. His family lived in Bethesda, Maryland, then moved to Richmond, Virginia when he was 8 years of age. He attended the University of Virginia where he wrote for The Cavalier Daily. He majored in English and psychology and graduated in 2002. He began performing stand-up comedy on his 19th birthday at an open-mic night at Matt's Pub in Richmond.

Lee ~~camp~~ **Lee** Manteuffel of The Washington Post Magazine that the Russian government funds the network that ran his show. When asked about advertising, he said, **"one of the reasons I'm at RT America is because there's no advertising. If there were advertising, no channel really wants someone who goes after corporations as much as I do."** After RT America shut down in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Camp blamed the "U.S. government war machine" for the end of the network.

## Join Lee Camp's Community!

Become a part of the movement. Join an amazing community. You can click "Become a Member" for free to check it all out with no obligation. Or you can become a subscribing member and get a lot of exclusive content, interact with Lee Camp, and get a free copy of Lee's new e-book "Dangerous Ideas". Thanks and keep fighting!



← Jimmy Dore ✓

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Media & News Company | Hollywood, CA | [jimmydore.com](http://jimmydore.com)  
Joined December 2009

1,976 Following 544.1K Followers

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Jimmy Dore ✓ @jimmy\_dore · Aug 15, 2022 ...  
I don't criticize Democrats cuz I side with Republicans, I criticize Democrats Cuz THEY side with Republicans.

Our fight is not Left/Right anymore, it is Us vs.Them.

We have 2 corporate party's that serve Wall St/War Machine/Corporations & crush everyone else. #UniParty @Orf



1.9K 6.9K 22K

Jimmy Dore



Dore at the 2016 edition of Politicon

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| <b>Born</b>            | James Patrick Anthony Dore<br>July 26, 1965 (age 58)<br>Chicago, Illinois, U.S. |
| <b>Alma mater</b>      | Columbia College Chicago (BA)<br>Illinois State University                      |
| <b>Occupations</b>     | Stand-up comedian · political commentator                                       |
| <b>Years active</b>    | 1989–present  |
| <b>Political party</b> | Independent (2016–present)<br>Democratic (until 2016)                           |

James Patrick Anthony Dore (born July 26, 1965) is an American stand-up comedian, political commentator, pod-caster and YouTube personality. He is the host of The Jimmy Dore Show, a comedic political talk show on YouTube. Dore started as a comedian in Illinois in 1989 and made several appearances on late night talk shows early in his comedy career. From 2005 onward, his performances increasingly included political commentary. Dore was affiliated with The Young Turks from 2009 to 2019 and appeared on a Young Turks Network show titled Aggressive Progressives. From 2010 to 2021 The Jimmy Dore Show was broadcast on public radio station KPFK 90.7 FM in Los Angeles, California. From 2021 onward, The Jimmy Dore Show became entirely independent and streams live, as well as posts, via YouTube regularly. Dore has gained a reputation for presenting a positive perspective on established conspiracy theories, such as the assertion that the Syrian government was not responsible for chemical weapons attacks on Syrian civilians in Khan Shaykhun. Dore was born in southwest Chicago, Illinois, on July 26, 1965, into a Catholic family of Polish and Irish descent. He was raised in the blue-collar neighborhood of Vittum Park.

☰ YouTube



The Jimmy Dore Show ✓

@thejimmydoreshow · 1.28M subscribers · 7.6K videos

"Jimmy Dore is outrageous and outraged, bothersome and bot..." >

[jimmydore.com](http://jimmydore.com) and 4 more links



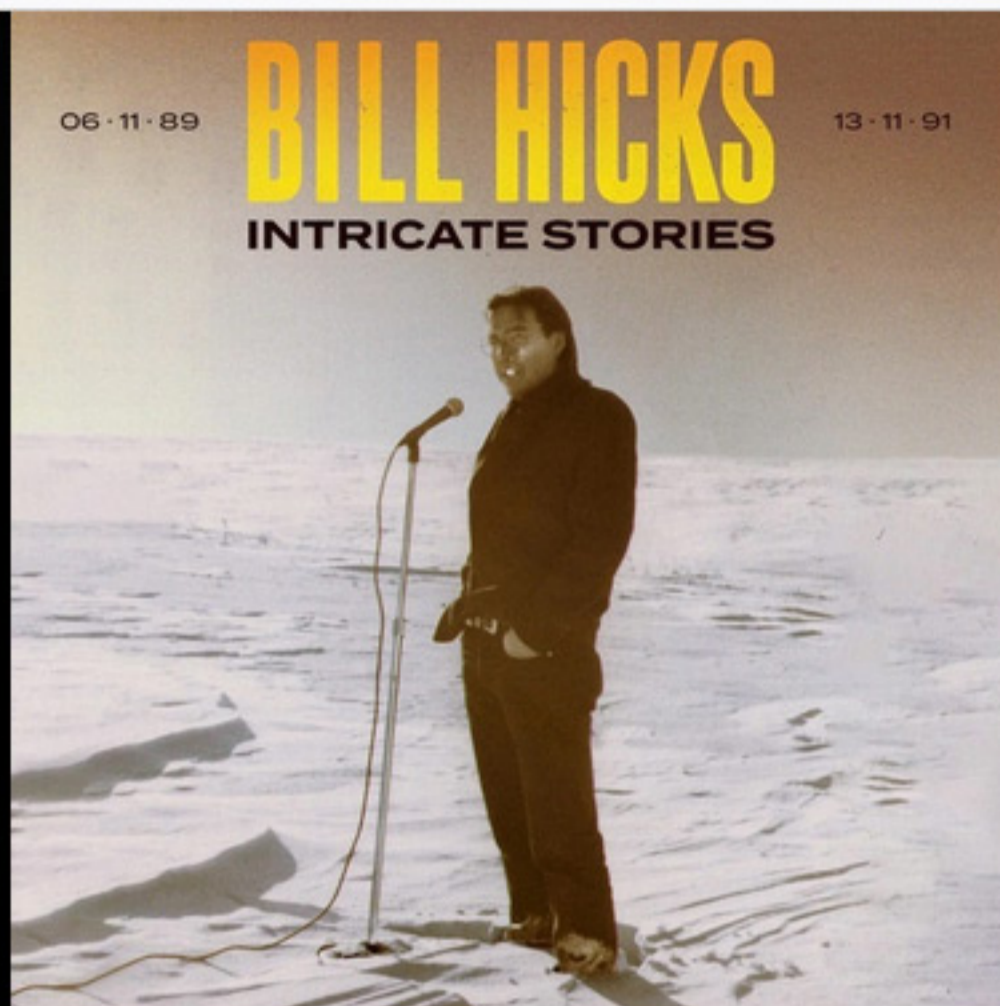
JIMMY DORE.com







https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bill\_Hicks



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**William Melvin Hicks** (December 16, 1961 – February 26, 1994) was an American stand-up comedian and satirist. His material—encompassing a wide range of social issues including religion, politics, and philosophy—was controversial and often steeped in [dark comedy](#).

At the age of 16, Hicks began performing at the [Comedy Workshop](#) in [Houston, Texas](#). During the 1980s, he toured the U.S. extensively and made a number of high-profile television appearances, but he amassed a significant fan base in the UK, filling large venues during his 1991 tour.<sup>[1]</sup> He also achieved some recognition as a guitarist and songwriter.

Hicks died of [pancreatic cancer](#) on February 26, 1994, at the age of 32. In subsequent years, his work gained significant acclaim in creative circles—particularly after a series of posthumous album releases—and he developed a substantial cult following. In 2007, he was number six on [Channel 4's](#) list of the "100 Greatest Stand-Up Comics",<sup>[2]</sup> and rose to No. 4 on the 2010 list.<sup>[3]</sup> In 2017, *Rolling Stone* magazine ranked him number 13 on its list of the 50 best stand-up comics of all time.<sup>[4]</sup>

Bill Hicks



Hicks at the Laff Stop in 1991

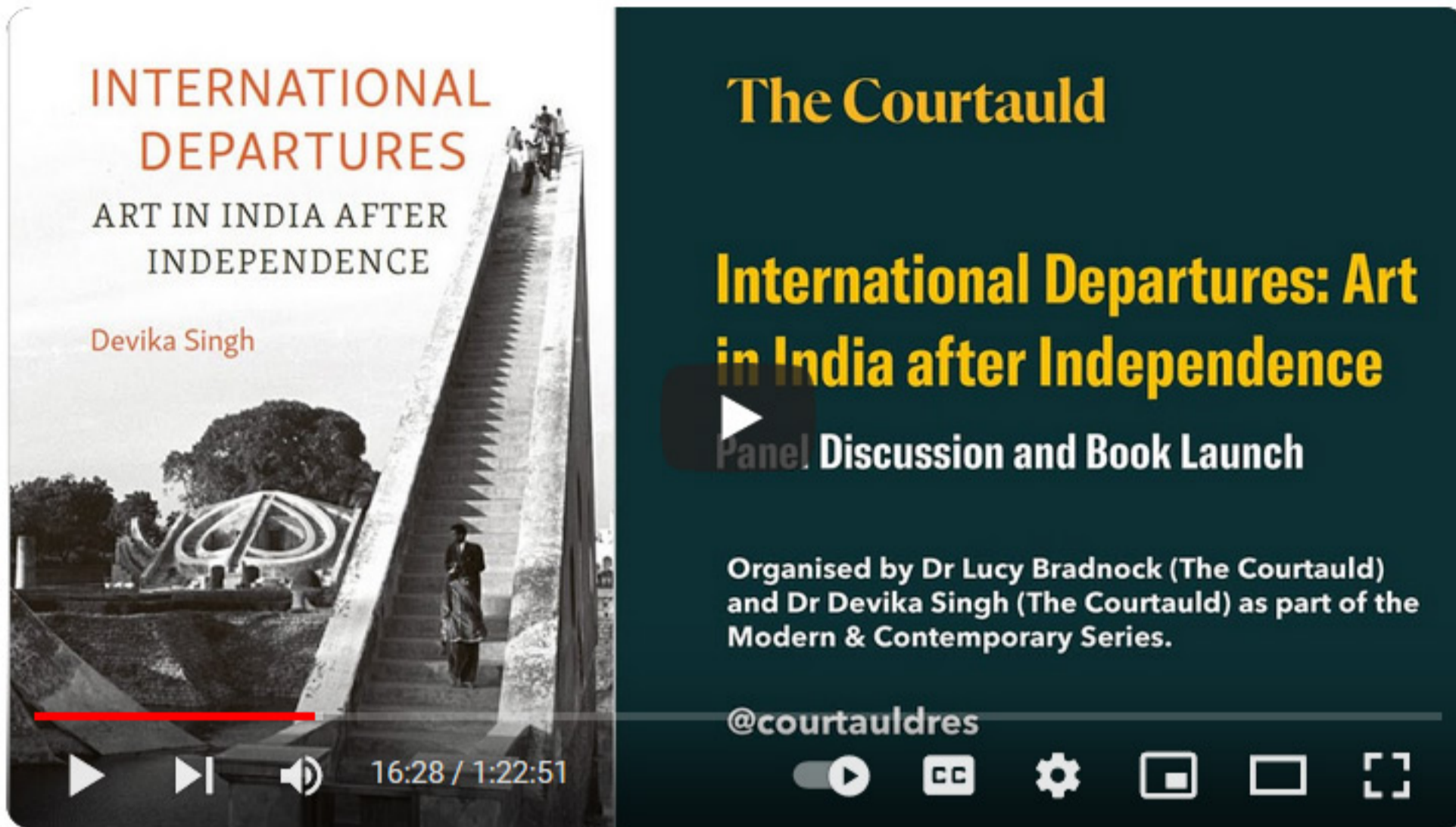
Birth name William Melvin Hicks

On June 16, 1993, Hicks was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer that had spread to his liver.<sup>[50]</sup> He still toured and also recorded his album, *Arizona Bay*, while receiving weekly chemotherapy.

Following his cancer diagnosis, Hicks often joked that any given performance could be his last; the public, however, was unaware of his condition, and only a few close friends and family members knew of the disease. He performed the final show of his career at *Caroline's* in New York on January 6, 1994; he moved back to his parents' house in Little Rock shortly thereafter.

In his last weeks, Hicks re-read J. R. R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the*





## International Departures: Art in India after Independence

The Courtauld **Subscribe** 12.1K subscribers Like Share ...

159 views Dec 13, 2023

The panel discussion will mark the launch of *International Departures: Art in India after Independence* by Devika Singh (Reaktion Books, 2023). Described as a major contribution to a new, transnational history of art, this captivating and richly illustrated account presents together for the first time the work of Indian and foreign artists active in India after independence in 1947. It engages with the many creators, critics and patrons of the postwar Indian art world, from K.G. Subramanyan, Zarina and Mulk Raj Anand to Isamu Noguchi, Le Corbusier and Clement Greenberg. *International Departures* opens up new ways of thinking about Indian art, closely examining artworks and analysing how they were received in India and abroad. Featuring a wealth of rare and previously unpublished images, this provocative book explores how artists in India participated in global modernism during a crucial period of decolonization and nation building.

Chaired by Professor Jo Applin (Courtauld) and including Dr Shanay Jhaveri (Barbican), Professor Partha Mitter (University of Sussex and Carleton University) and the author Dr Devika Singh (Courtauld), the panel discussion will address some of the core issues of the book and examine the impact that new transnational readings of art have on the history of art and on the practice of curating.





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**Looking in the rear-view mirror**, going full speed ahead.  
 Something about this moment makes me cautious. Calculate  
 the curve feeling the force that accelerates towards the center.  
 Leery of living in interesting times, . . . buckle up, turn on the lights,  
 honk the horn. Somehow make a leap, jumping for joy of the ride.

*"There'll be a hot time in the old town tonight!"*

.....

*"There'll be a hot time in the old town tonight!"* is a line from a popular song lyric  
 of The O'Leary Legend:

Late one night, when we were all in bed,  
 Mrs. O'Leary lit a lantern in the shed.  
 Her cow kicked it over,  
 Then winked her eye and said,  
 "There'll be a hot time in the  
 old town tonight!"

Did Mrs. O'Leary's cow start the Great Chicago Fire? Some say it's possible.

*"May you live in interesting times"* is an English expression that is claimed to be  
 a translation of a traditional Chinese curse. While seemingly a blessing, the ex-  
 pression is normally used ironically; life is better in "uninteresting times" of peace  
 and tranquility than in "interesting" ones, which are usually times of trouble.

As I write this, the global geo-political landscape is foreboding. Ruthless auto-  
 crats and the threats of expanding wars are on the rise. Here in America there is  
 the very real concern we'll lose our very form of government to a populist move-  
 ment lead by a want to be fascist dictator. My tax dollars are being spent drop-  
 ping bombs on defenseless babies and children in the Gaza Strip in a wildly ex-  
 cessive revenge killing re-enforcing, once again, colonial settler rights to occupy  
 other's lands by brute force. All the while, U.S. Republicans are withholding  
 promised funds to Ukraine to help them defend themselves from a world order  
 changing attack by Russia on their sovereign country. China is making it clear  
 they want Taiwan back under their control. And then there's South America,  
 Africa,immigration. Florida, Texas, abortion. On and on. It's a pivotal time. Over-  
 whelmed by the sheer volume of alarming issues: Inflation, poverty and social  
 inequality, crime and violence, military conflict between nations, the spread of  
 communicable bacterial and viral diseases, climate change, nuclear holocaust  
 and new AI weapons of mass destruction, climate change and the warming of  
 the earth . . . looking ahead, it's increasingly difficult to see peace on earth,  
 goodwill to all.



A Sapling for Your Little Sapling: Plant ...  
 KinderCare



How to Make Tree Planting a Kid-Frie...  
 Mr. Tree Services

When I was young, in the last week, we'd review the year in passing. The highs  
 and the lows. Innocent times. We laughed more than we shook our heads in dis-  
 belief. That's flipped on its head. Now, it feels too ominous to look more than a  
 glance at what's behind us. White knuckled, we grip the steering wheel for what  
 little we can control, turn up the radio and sing along with the old jingle,

Buckle up for safety, buckle up.  
 Buckle up for safety, always buckle up.  
 Show the world you care,  
 use it everywhere.  
 Buckle up for safety.  
 When you're driving

Buckle Up!  
 Buckle up for safety, buckle up.  
 Buckle up for safety, always buckle up.  
 Put your mind at ease,  
 Tell your drivers please.  
 "Keep your seat belts buckled"  
 Everybody buckle up...

**How can we once again light heartedly say, "Happy New Year!"**



Google's BARD: Here are some images that might resonate with the themes of hope and resilience:  
• A sunrise over a calm ocean • **A child planting a tree** • A group of people holding hands in a circle • A dove carrying an olive branch



A child planting a tree

- Images
- Videos
- Drawing
- Poem
- Clipart
- Easy drawing
- Shopping
- Perspectives
- News
- All filters
- Tools

# Images :

- family tree
- cartoon images
- one tree
- draw
- tree plantation



A Sapling for Your Little Sapling: Plant ...  
KinderCare



How to Make Tree Planting a Kid-Frie...  
Mr. Tree Services



Kids Planting Tree Theme Image 1 - Eps...  
123RF



Kids Planting Tree Ima...  
Adobe Stock



In pics: Celebrating the pres...  
www.xinhuanet.com



Teaching Kids the Importance ...  
Boutique Mama



Best Time To Plant Trees - W...  
Gardening Know How

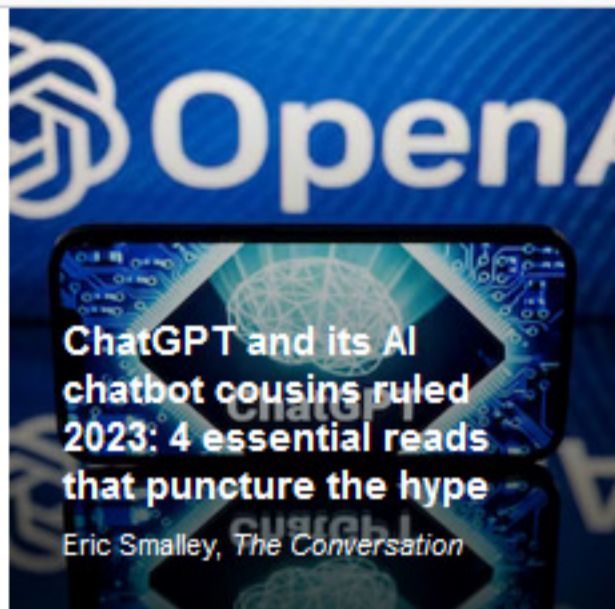


Close Up Kid Hand Planting Yo...  
iStock

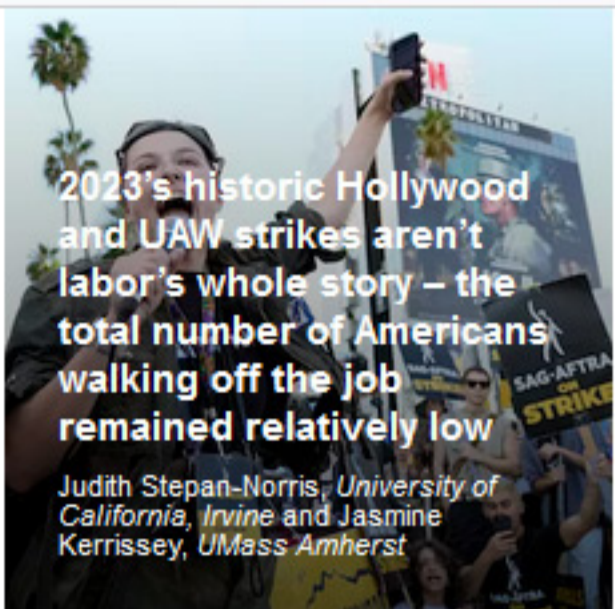


Do somethi...  
Daily Sab...



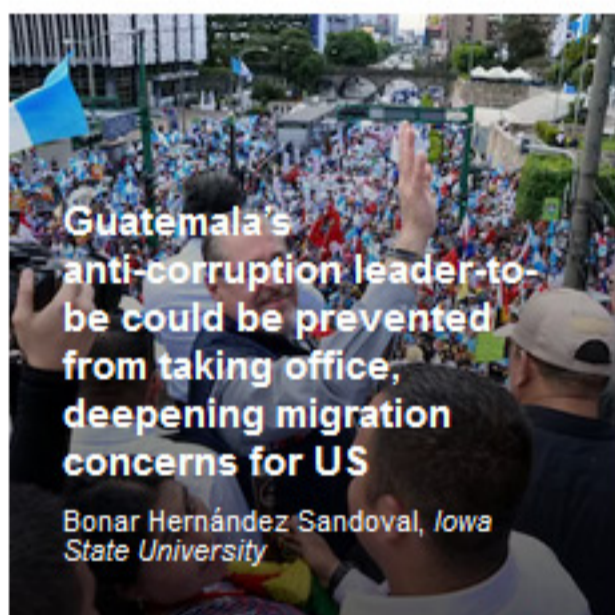
**ChatGPT and its AI chatbot cousins ruled 2023: 4 essential reads that puncture the hype**  
Eric Smalley, *The Conversation*



**2023's historic Hollywood and UAW strikes aren't labor's whole story – the total number of Americans walking off the job remained relatively low**  
Judith Stepan-Norris, *University of California, Irvine* and Jasmine Kerrissey, *UMass Amherst*



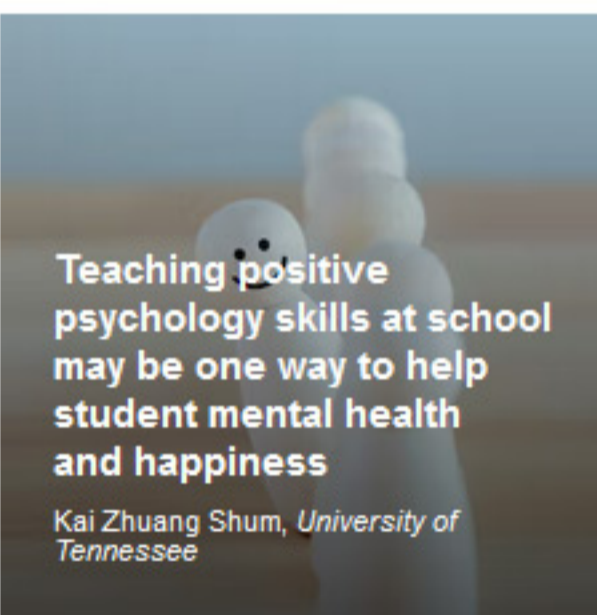
**Why do some men commit domestic violence? Trauma and social isolation may play a role**  
Laura Voith, *Case Western Reserve University*



**Guatemala's anti-corruption leader-to-be could be prevented from taking office, deepening migration concerns for US**  
Bonar Hernández Sandoval, *Iowa State University*



**Wild 'super pigs' from Canada could become a new front in the war on feral hogs**  
Marcus Lashley, *University of Florida*



**Teaching positive psychology skills at school may be one way to help student mental health and happiness**  
Kai Zhuang Shum, *University of Tennessee*

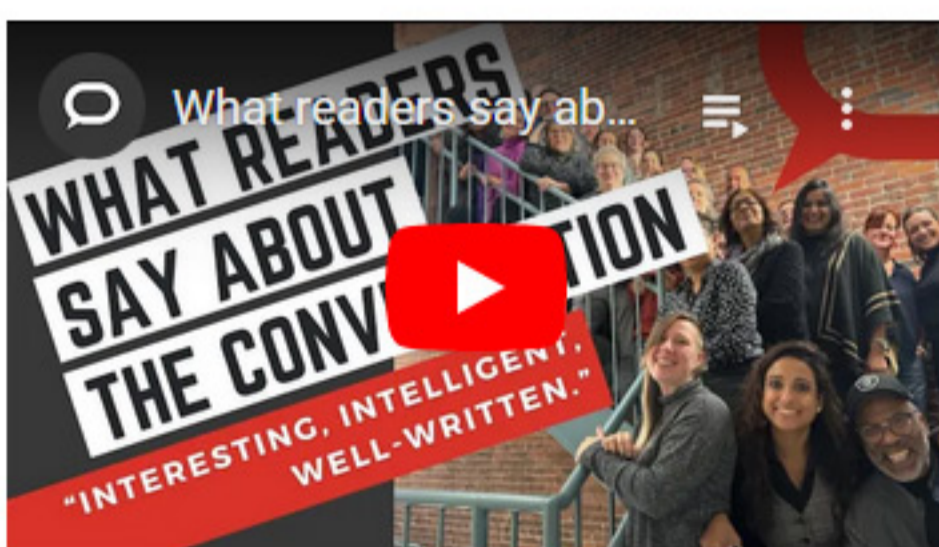


**Pope Francis' approval of blessings for LGBTQ+ couples is a historic gesture, according to a Catholic theologian**  
Steven P. Millies, *Catholic Theological Union*



**2023's extreme storms, heat and wildfires broke records – a scientist explains how global warming fuels climate disasters**  
Shuang-Ye Wu, *University of Dayton*

The US saw a record number of billion-dollar disasters in 2023, even when accounting for inflation. The number of long-running heat waves like the Southwest experienced is also rising.



What readers say ab...

**WHAT READERS SAY ABOUT THE CONVERSATION**

"INTERESTING, INTELLIGENT, WELL-WRITTEN."



**More city hall news coverage isn't enough to revive local news outlets**  
Erik Peterson, *Rice University* and Josh McCrain, *University of Utah*

There are lots of ideas about how to save local news. One of them is that increasing coverage of local politics will bring back readers and viewers. Research shows that it doesn't.

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**Hilary Lawson** is an English philosopher and founder of the [Institute of Art and Ideas](#).<sup>[1][2]</sup> His theory of "closure"<sup>[3]</sup> puts forward a non-realist metaphysics arguing that people close the openness of the world with thought and language.<sup>[4]</sup> Lawson has also had a broadcasting and documentary film-making career<sup>[5]</sup> and founded Television and Film Productions, now known as TVF Media.<sup>[6]</sup>

## Biography [\[edit\]](#)

Lawson graduated from [Balliol College, Oxford](#) with a first in PPE, and as a post-graduate began a DPhil on the problems of self-reference.<sup>[7]</sup> This later became his book *Reflexivity: The Post-Modern Predicament* (1985)<sup>[8]</sup> as part of the series *Problems of Modern European Thought* in which he argued that self-referential paradoxes are central to twentieth century philosophy, and specifically post-modernism.<sup>[9][10]</sup>

Later, Lawson pursued a broadcasting career. As a writer and director he made documentaries, created the series *Where There's Life*<sup>[11]</sup> and co-authored a book based on the series.<sup>[12]</sup> At 28, he was appointed editor of programmes at [TV-am](#).<sup>[13][14]</sup> In the late 1980s he founded the production company TVF Media<sup>[15]</sup> which made documentary and current affairs programming, including Channel 4's international current affairs programme, *The World This Week*.<sup>[16]</sup> Lawson was editor of the programme which ran weekly between 1987 and 1991.<sup>[17]</sup>

His book *Closure* was published in 2001.<sup>[18]</sup> The book has been described by [Don Cupitt](#) as "perhaps the first largescale Anglo-Saxon non-realist 'metaphysics'".<sup>[19]</sup>

Lawson founded the Institute of Art and Ideas in 2008 with the aim of making ideas and philosophy a central part of cultural life.<sup>[20][21]</sup>

Lawson's theory of "closure" responds to his rejection of realism and postmodernism, by proposing that the world is open and complex, but that it is enclosed by defined limits such as language and meaning.<sup>[38][39]</sup> As Patrick Dillon says, 'Closure can be understood as the imposition of fixity on openness. The closing of that which is open. [...] Through closure there are things'.<sup>[40]</sup> The theory shifts the focus of metaphysics away from language and towards an exploration of the tension between openness and closure.<sup>[41][42]</sup> Given Lawson's earlier work on self-reference, an important element of the theory of "closure" is its own self-referential nature.<sup>[43]</sup>

The framework of closure enables Lawson to claim that he provides an account of the relationship between language and the world that does not rely on reference and which he argues overcomes the problem of how language is hooked onto the world that beset twentieth century philosophy.<sup>[44][45]</sup> One of the consequences of the theory is that philosophical oppositions, between language and the world, fact and value, are no longer regarded as oppositions.<sup>[46][47]</sup> Lawson proposes that science is 'driven by the search for closure', whilst art is described as 'the pursuit of openness and the avoidance of closure', demonstrating that the two are not in opposition to one another but rather in different relationships to openness and closure.<sup>[48]</sup>

### Hilary Lawson

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| <b>Era</b>            | 21st-century philosophy  |
| <b>Region</b>         | Western philosophy   |
| <b>School</b>         | Continental philosophy   |
| <b>Main interests</b> | Metaphysics<br>Theory of truth<br>Philosophy of science<br>Postmodernity |
| <b>Notable ideas</b>  | Theory of closure<br>Reflexivity   |



## Hilary Lawson

English philosopher

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**There is little that we can be certain about**, but we can be confident that a time will come when our current beliefs and assumptions are seen as mistaken, our heroes - like the imperial adventurers of the past - are regarded as villains, and our morality is viewed as bigoted prejudice.

So the IAI seeks to challenge the notion that our present accepted wisdom is the truth. It aims to uncover the flaws and limitations in our current thinking in search of alternative and better ways to hold the world.

The IAI was founded in 2008 with the aim of rescuing philosophy from technical debates about the meaning of words and returning it to big ideas and putting them at the centre of culture. Not in aid of a more refined cultural life, but as an urgent call to rethink where we are.

That rethinking is urgent and necessary because the world of ideas is in crisis. The traditional modernist notion that we are gradually uncovering the one true account of reality has been undermined by a growing awareness that ideas are limited by culture, history and language. Yet in a relative world the paradoxes of postmodern culture has left us lost and confused. We do not know what to believe, nor do we know how to find the answers.

The IAI was founded to help address this intellectual crisis. Our research and editorial teams have worked around the clock to face up to this challenge and unearth fresh ways of thinking that might guide us in an uncertain world.

When, with the founding of the IAI, we declared that philosophy and big ideas should be at the heart of our culture, we did not do so out of reverence for ideas or an attachment to the academy and intellectual life. We did so because it is these core thoughts and ideas that determine the character of our world and our lives.

It is our vision that philosophy and big ideas are not a pleasant reflective addition to our everyday lives but an essential determinant of who and where we are and of what is possible. At the IAI we are committed to finding new and better ways to make sense of the world so that we can navigate a brighter future in an increasingly dangerous world.

### History of the IAI

The IAI's first festival, Crunch, focused on the visual arts and was held in November 2008 in the wake of the financial crash.

In May 2009, the IAI held its first philosophy festival HowTheLightGetsIn in the book town of Hay-on-wye. In the following few years the festival grew rapidly and by 2011 included 360 events running over ten days. Since HowTheLightGetsIn began the IAI has put on more than 4000 events.

In October 2011, the IAI launched an online platform IAI.tv with videos of the debates and talks at its events. Its audience has grown steadily since it was launched first passing 10 million views in July 2020.

IAI News, an online philosophy magazine, was launched in 2014 with new articles published daily from 2020. Later in 2014, the IAI Academy offering courses from leading thinkers and academics was started, followed in 2016 with Philosophy for our Times, the IAI's weekly podcast series.

During the Covid pandemic the IAI was unable to stage physical events and in its place developed a virtual reality platform enabling visitors to the online festival to visit up to eleven virtual stages and meeting spaces with debates, music and comedy. On the return to physical festivals for HowTheLightGetsIn London 2021, the festival was also streamed live using the virtual reality platform to host the events from the festival.

Learn about our annual festival: <https://howthelightgetsin.org>

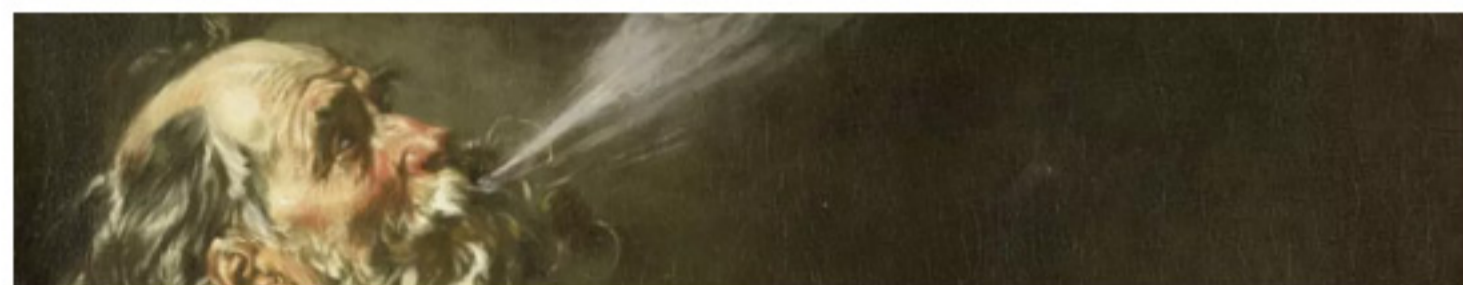
Listen to our podcast: <https://iai.tv/iai-podcast>

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# Dopamine undermines the joy of the everyday

Reward is dangerous



**18th December 2023** **Anna Lembke**

The English philosopher John Locke famously said that 'Reward and punishment are the only motives to a rational creature'. And from the gold stars we give to our children, to the rewards we administer to ourselves everyday, and the religious stories about paradise after death, we typically see reward as central to our lives. But rewards can be psychologically damaging, addictive and cause a dopamine imbalance in our brain argues world-leading Stanford psychiatrist and author of *Dopamine Nation*, Anna Lembke. We need to learn to be content with absorbing experience in the here and now and living in the present moment.

Modern life is increasingly organized around the many small rewards we administer to ourselves throughout the day, whether in pursuit of pleasure or to avoid pain. Indeed it seems to me that self-rewards have become the way we demarcate lived time: First-thing-in-the morning smartphone texts and the little hit of dopamine they provide, followed by our favorite caffeinated beverage for a jolt of stimulation to prepare for the commute to work, where we listen to music/news/podcasts to avoid the tedium of traffic, segueing into a day interspersed with Instagram Reels (90 seconds), YouTube Shorts (60 seconds), and Tik Tok (3 seconds), the digital equivalent of crack cocaine. We are relying on these digital drugs not merely to reward ourselves for a job well done. We're interrupting ourselves with a job undone, escaping into the comfort of the Metaverse where the illusion of work and social connection often trumps its reality.

All of this numbing distraction culminates in the moment when we can finally go home at the end of the day to eat, drink, smoke, and/or watch shows till we've narcotized ourselves enough to calm down from all that over-stimulation and fall asleep, often much later than planned or hoped for, only to start the cycle over again the next day. I'm exhausted just thinking about it. This scenario is further complicated by the fact that our brains adapt to repeated rewards such that our drugs of choice -- a term I use here liberally to encompass the many ways we seek to get high, escape, or change the way we feel -- eventually stop working and require more potent forms to get the same effect, leading to the "addiction narrative", as Facebook (now Meta) so aptly put it. Addiction is the continued, compulsive use of a substance or behavior despite harm to self and/or others, including harm we may not recognize. With addiction comes a narrowing of our mental focus on our drugs of choice and a growing inability to take pleasure in other more modest rewards, including the things that used to give us pleasure.

I for one got addicted to romance novels, facilitated by my Kindle as a seemingly innocent way to reward myself at the end of the day and fall asleep, something my brain fights no matter how tired I am, escalating over time to frank erotica, which is how I found myself awake at three in the morning reading about "butt plugs", something I'd never been remotely curious about.

## How did I get here?

I know I'm not alone. Many of us find ourselves on the hamster wheel of desire, which by the way is only part metaphor. It turns out that some rats will run repeatedly in a running wheel till their tails have curved permanently in the shape of the wheel. Some will run till exhaustion or death. Like a roller coaster in an amusement park, the three-dimensional movement in space is reinforcing to some mammalian brains.

But separate from the problem of addiction, I believe there's a more subtle harm from this endless pursuit of pleasure: The inability to be present in the moment. To test this hypothesis, I invite you to engage in a simple experiment: Go through one 24-hour period without indulging in any activity that you look forward to. You may do the things necessary for survival --- eat, sleep, work --- and you may find some reward in those activities as they satisfy hunger, fatigue, obligation. But even those you must strip to their barest forms, avoiding foods that go beyond basic nutrition, sleeping only as much as is necessary to be rested, engaging in those aspects of work that must be done, while avoiding tasks that create 'flow' or 'fun'. When it comes to digital media, avoid using the Internet for entertainment or to change the way you feel, the bottom-line my patients in recovery from Internet and technology addiction ascribe to. (See Internet and Technology Addiction Anonymous website). In other words, no scrolling through Tik Tok while you're eating dinner, doing the laundry, and responding to email.

How dreary! you might say, and why bother?! And I would not fault you for it. But if you decide to take on this challenge, as I try to do on a rare occasion, the first thing you may discover is just how hard it is: The cresting wave of boredom mixed with terror is enough to dissuade even the boldest among us.



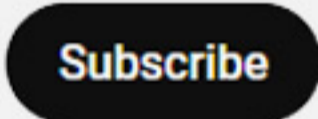
The second thing you might discover, if you allow yourself to linger there, in that dark and uncertain space, is an unrivaled attention to the present moment. In forgoing future rewards, there is nowhere else to go except right here, right now. And with our full attention on the present moment, we may discover that even the dullest of the dulls has corners and edges that command our interest. The very drudgery we seek to escape now feels like it might after all have some merit. In attending to the everyday-ordinary, we elevate it and make it something more and better than it was, and correspondingly our own lives ignite with a present-ness which is new and exciting and very much alive, and here I think we come to the heart of the matter.

For all the pleasure we get from self-administering the many rewards that 21st century life offers, the constant manipulation of subjective experience deadens it. In order to feel the vitality of everyday life, we need to maintain some uncertainty, some not-knowing-what-comes-next. We need to sit and wait and see what comes, and we can't do that if we're looking inward and working to modulate through repeated pleasures our experience of lived time.





## The Trump movement is turning America fascist w/Jeff Sharlet | The Chris Hedges Report

 The Real News Network   908K subscribers

317,581 views Premiered Oct 27, 2023

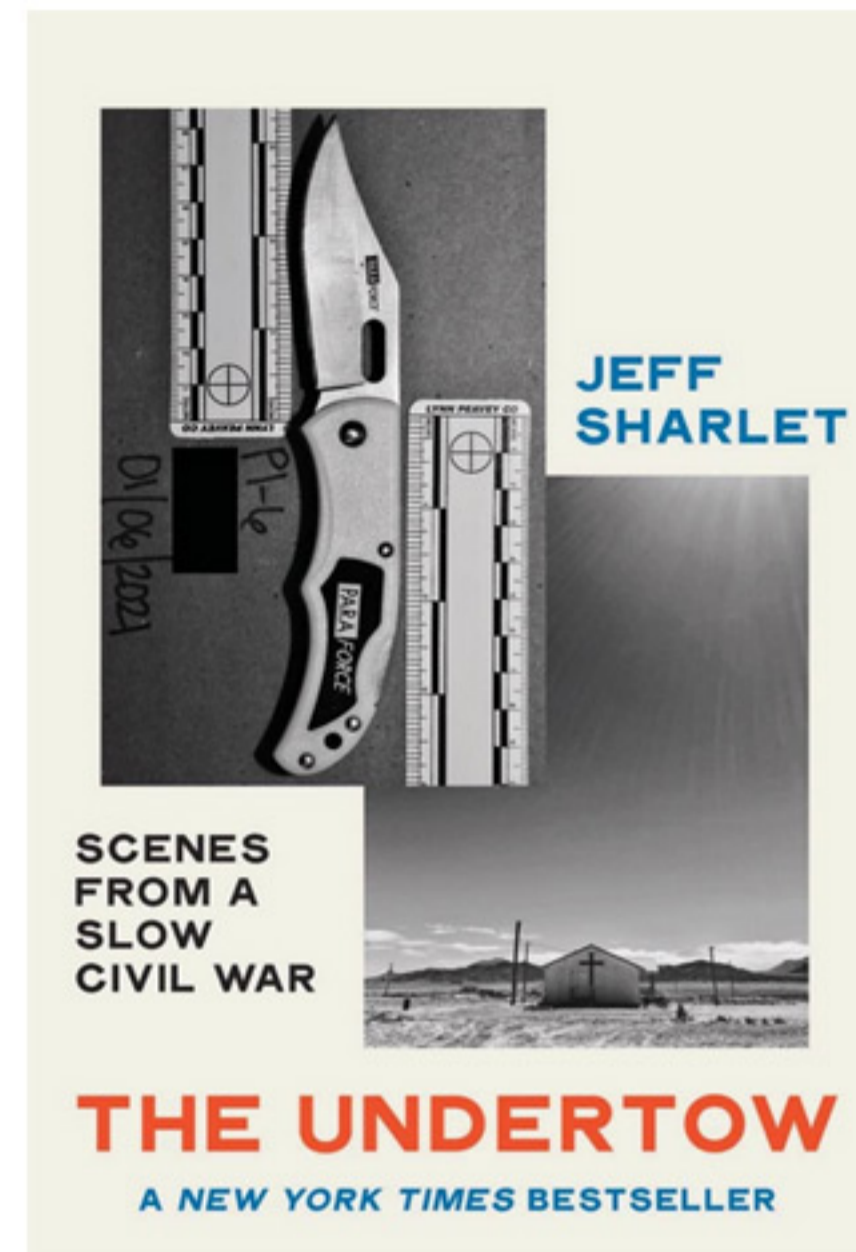
[The Real News Network Podcasts](#)

Jeff Sharlet has spent two decades covering the intersection of extreme Christian nationalism and the far-right. In his new book, *Undertow: Scenes from a Slow Civil War*, he gives snapshots of a country rapidly devolving into a Christian fascism state. He captures the rage, the despair, the dislocation, the alienation, the aesthetic of violence, and the magical thinking that are the foundations of all fascist movements—forces that are now coalescing around the Trump-led Republican Party. The bizarre conspiracy theories and buffoonish quality of many who lead and embrace this movement, such as Republican Rep. Lauren Boebert, make the use American fascists easy to ridicule and dismiss. But Sharlet implores us to take them seriously as an existential threat to what is left of our anemic democracy. Jeff Sharlet joins The Chris Hedges Report to discuss his new book and the rising tide of Christofascism threatening our democracy.

## The Undertow: Scenes from a Slow Civil War

by [Jeff Sharlet](#) (Author)

An unmatched guide to the religious dimensions of American politics, Jeff Sharlet journeys into corners of our national psyche where others fear to tread. *The Undertow* is both inquiry and meditation, an attempt to understand how, over the last decade, reaction has morphed into delusion, social division into distrust, distrust into paranoia, and hatred into fantasies—sometimes realities—of violence.



Across the country, men “of God” glorify materialism, a gluttony of the soul, while citing Scripture and preparing for civil war—a firestorm they long for as an absolute and exaltation. Lies, greed, and glorification of war boom through microphones at hipster megachurches that once upon a time might have preached peace and understanding. Political rallies are as aflame with need and giddy expectation as religious revivals. At a conference for incels, lonely single men come together to rage against women. On the Far Right, everything is heightened—love into adulation, fear into vengeance, anger into white-hot rage. Here, in the undertow, our forty-fifth president, a vessel of conspiratorial fears and fantasies, continues to rise to sainthood, and the insurrectionist Ashli Babbitt, killed on January 6 at the Capitol, is beatified as a martyr of white womanhood. Framing this dangerous vision, Sharlet remembers and celebrates the courage of those who sing a different song of community, and of an America long dreamt of and yet to be fully born, dedicated to justice and freedom for all. Exploring a geography of grief and uncertainty in the midst of plague and rising fascism, *The Undertow* is a necessary reckoning with our precarious present that brings to light a decade of American failures as well as a vision for American possibility.



# India's Parliament votes on key bills with over 140 opposition members suspended

DECEMBER 20, 2023 · 2:27 PM ET By Omkar Khandekar

"At this point, unfortunately, we have to start writing obituaries for parliamentary democracy in India," Congress party member Shashi Tharoor

 **Jairam Ramesh**  
@Jairam\_Ramesh

Not only in the Lok Sabha, today was a bloodbath in the Rajya Sabha with 45 INDIA party MPs getting suspended for demanding a statement by the Home Minister on the December 13th security breach, and for demanding that the Leader of the Opposition be allowed to speak. Incidentally, I too figure in this Roll of Honour — for the first time in my parliamentary career of 19 years.

**This is Murder of Democracy in India(MODI) at work!**

Tanashahi ka Doosra Naam ModiShahi hai— democracy has been suspended!

3:02 AM · Dec 18, 2023 · 368.5K Views





**A medical worker** reacts as police officers and pedestrians cheer medical workers outside NYU Medical Center in New York in April 2020. Some states that stockpiled millions of masks and other personal protective equipment during the coronavirus pandemic are now throwing the items away. *Frank Franklin II/AP file photo*





# Here are the top stories of 2023

DECEMBER 14, 2023 · 5:03 AM ET

By Bill Chappell, Emily Alfin Johnson



2023 has been a wild year. This composite image shows some of the subjects of our most popular stories: Fireball Whiskey, a Steller's jay, a Yellowstone visitor attempting to help a stranded bison calf, and Tucker Carlson.

*2023 has been a wild year, and with it we've had some truly wild stories. We've learned the truth about Fireball, survived some TikTok trends, seen a woman saved by a dead rabbit, honored incredible lives and learned more about aliens. Here's a look back at the top stories that captured readers' attention in 2023 from NPR.org and across the NPR Network.*

**The 10 most popular stories on NPR.org:** • There's no whiskey in bottles of Fireball Cinnamon, so customers are suing for fraud (Published Jan. 27, 2023). How do you sell mini bottles in places that don't sell liquor? Don't put liquor in the bottle. • Tucker Carlson ousted at Fox News following network's \$787 million settlement (Published April 24, 2023). In his final show, Carlson wished viewers the "best weekend," saying he'd be back on Monday. • A remarkable new view of the Titanic shipwreck is here, thanks to deep-sea mappers (Published May 20, 2023). Massive amounts of data and 715,000 still images bring the most detailed view yet of the 1912 wreck. • Baby bison euthanized after being handled by a Yellowstone guest, rejected by herd (Published May 24, 2023). A visitor from Hawaii was apparently trying to help the newborn animal rejoin its mother. • Coastal biomedical labs are bleeding more horseshoe crabs with little accountability (Published June 10, 2023). The prehistoric animals have strikingly blue blood. Since the 1960s, companies have been using it to detect bacterial toxins. • Florence Griffith Joyner, better known as "Flo-Jo," became the fastest woman in the world in 1988. But 10 years later, she died in her sleep. • U.S. recovered non-human 'biologics' from UFO crash sites, former intel official says (Published July 27, 2023). A back-and-forth with Congress members offers titillating details about unexplained phenomena.

- These American birds and dozens more will be renamed, to remove human monikers (Published Nov. 1, 2023). As an expert told NPR, "It's an exciting opportunity to give these birds names that celebrate them."
- An Alabama mayor ended his life after a website showed pictures of him cross-dressing (Published Nov. 7, 2023). Bubba Copeland was an effective city leader and a pastor. Then a news site turned his life upside down.
- She lived in a New York hotel for more than 40 years. But her life was a mystery (Published Nov. 15, 2023). Beyond her handwritten notes, her neighbors knew little about the woman who lived in Manhattan's theater district.

**Stories from across the NPR Network that hit home:** • A dead snowshoe hare saved this Alaskan woman after she fell through the ice (Published Jan. 17, 2023). As KBBI reports, when 29-year old Kelsey Haas, an experienced adventurer, fell through a patch of thin ice last winter while skating in Homer, Alaska, she had to get creative to survive. • What if you could design a house that on a cold day in January would stay 70 degrees inside (Published Jan. 25, 2023). Without running the furnace? Or even having a furnace? As Maine Public explains, this family in Hope, Maine, is doing just that. • Sarah Romanelli's grandmother died at home, just as she wanted. But it cost \$145,000 (Published Feb. 8, 2023). As she explains in her piece for WBUR's Cognoscenti blog, the comfort of dying at home could cost you a fortune. • A new study found this widely used artificial sweetener might be causing heart problems (Published April 17, 2023). As KERA in Dallas reports, Erythritol can be found in artificial sweeteners like Equal, Stevia and Truvia. • With her children's book "Are you with me?" she said she wanted to help children deal with grief, after seeing how her kids handled her husband's death (Published May 8, 2023). A few weeks later, Kouri Richins was charged with her husband's murder. The wild story from KPCW in Park City, Utah, got national attention as we soon learned Richins had been cut out of her late husband's will after she allegedly poisoned him with fentanyl. • 60,000 pounds of ammonium nitrate went missing, triggering four separate investigations (Published May 16, 2023). The explosive chemical went missing during a train ride somewhere between Cheyenne, Wyo., and the Mojave Desert, KQED reported earlier this year. • She worked 365 days a year and made minimum wage. In June, a judge awarded her almost \$850,000 (Published June 15, 2023). Aleta Ayo told Colorado Public Radio caring for residents in an assisted living facility was hard but rewarding work, where she was the lone employee expected to staff the facility 24/7. • There are lobster-like crustaceans in the Chicago River, and they're not supposed to be there (Published August 10, 2023). Bright red and 5 inches long, as WBEZ Chicago shared in August, the red swamp crayfish look like mini lobsters, and scientists want them gone. • Florida law enforcement agencies scrambled to find solutions to a TikTok trend that exposed Hyundai and Kia's lackluster security software (Published Aug. 11, 2023). WFSU in Florida found over half a million cars in the Sunshine State need their software updated.





# AP PHOTOS: In North America, 2023 was a year for all the emotions

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Joel Embiid powers 76ers

Toyota Recall

TV news helicopter crashes



**A deal on US border policy is closer than it seems. Here's how it is shaping up and what's at stake**

Biden needs a new approach to Black voters based on Georgia and Michigan, group of strategists says

Donald Trump's GOP rivals once again compelled to rally to his defense after Colorado ruling

President Biden denounces Trump as 'doubling down' on support for insurrection



**How Carey Mulligan became Felicia Montealegre in 'Maestro'**

Movie Review: A transformed Zac Efron gives his all in tragic, true-life wrestling tale 'Iron Claw'

AP's top music documentaries of 2023: Taylor Swift, Beyoncé, WHAM! and more — and where to watch

Andrew Haigh on the collapsing times and unhealed wounds of his ghost story 'All of Us Strangers'



**Stroud remains in concussion protocol, could miss second straight game for Texans on Sunday**

Signing day: Georgia has top class after 5-star flip; Ohio State sigh of relief on No. 1 player

Michigan receives notice of allegations from NCAA related to recruiting and impermissible coaching

Richmond scores 23, Davis adds 17 as Seton Hall stuns No. 5 UConn 75-60 in Big East opener

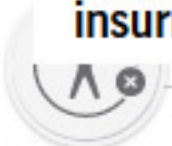


**Homeless numbers in Los Angeles could surge again, even as thousands move to temporary shelter**

Newly released video shows how police moved through UNLV campus in response to reports of shooting

AP PHOTOS: In North America, 2023 was a year for all the emotions

Descendants fight to maintain historic Black communities. Keeping their legacy alive is complicated







# AP PHOTOS: In North America, 2023 was a year for all the emotions



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A sea lion swims over sea grass in San Diego's La Jolla Cove on Oct. 10, 2023. (AP Photo/Gregory Bull)





# AP PHOTOS: In North America, 2023 was a year for all the emotions



2023-01-07 20:39:04 -0600  
AXON BODY 3 X6039BPTG



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This image from video released by the City of Memphis shows Tyre Nichols leaning against a car after a brutal attack by five police officers on Jan. 7, 2023, in Memphis, Tenn. Nichols died three days later. The five police officers, all of whom are also Black, were fired and later charged with various state felonies, including second-degree murder. (City of Memphis via AP)





# AP PHOTOS: In North America, 2023 was a year for all the emotions



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Firefighters battle a five-alarm fire in an apartment building on a frigid winter day in Montreal on Feb. 3, 2023. (Ryan Remiorz/The Canadian Press via AP)

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# AP PHOTOS: In North America, 2023 was a year for all the emotions



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Debris from a Norfolk Southern freight train lies scattered and burning along the tracks on Feb. 4, 2023, the day after it derailed in East Palestine, Ohio. (AP Photo/Gene J. Puskar)

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## AP PHOTOS: In North America, 2023 was a year for all the emotions



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A large plume of smoke rises over East Palestine, Ohio, after a controlled detonation of a portion of a derailed Norfolk Southern train on Feb. 6, 2023. Three days earlier, about 50 cars, including 10 carrying hazardous materials, derailed in a fiery crash. [Read More](#)





## AP PHOTOS: In North America, 2023 was a year for all the emotions



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State Route 138 winds through snow-covered trees near Hesperia, Calif., on March 1, 2023. (AP Photo/Jae C. Hong)



# AP PHOTOS: In North America, 2023 was a year for all the emotions



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Hikers are silhouetted against the setting sun at Papago park in Phoenix on Feb. 18, 2023. (AP Photo/Charlie Riedel)





# AP PHOTOS: In North America, 2023 was a year for all the emotions



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Alex Murdaugh is handcuffed at Colleton County Courthouse in Walterboro, S.C., on March 2, 2023. Murdaugh, a prominent attorney, was found guilty of murder in the 2021 shooting deaths of his wife and son. (Andrew J. Whitaker/The Post And Courier via AP, Pool)





# AP PHOTOS: In North America, 2023 was a year for all the emotions



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Michael Cohen, former attorney to Donald Trump, leaves the District Attorney's office in New York after testifying before a grand jury on March 13, 2023. (AP Photo/Yuki Iwamura)

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# AP PHOTOS: In North America, 2023 was a year for all the emotions



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A child weeps on a bus leaving The Covenant School in Nashville, Tenn., following a mass shooting there on March 27, 2023. (Nicole Hester/The Tennessean via AP)

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Tennessee state troopers block the stairwell leading to the legislative chambers at the Capitol in Nashville, Tenn., on April 6, 2023, as Tennessee Republicans considered whether to expell three House Democrats for using a bullhorn to shout support for pro-gun control protesters in the House chamber. (AP Photo/George Walker IV)





# AP PHOTOS: In North America, 2023 was a year for all the emotions



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Asylum-seekers wait between the double fence on U.S. soil along the U.S.-Mexico border near Tijuana, Mexico, on May 8, 2023, in San Diego. The migrants wait between the fences to be processed by U.S. Border Patrol agents. (AP Photo/Denis Porov) [Read More](#)





## AP PHOTOS: In North America, 2023 was a year for all the emotions



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People salvage items from a home after a tornado hit on May 13, 2023, in the unincorporated community of Laguna Heights, Texas, near South Padre Island. (AP Photo/Julio Cortez)

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**AP PHOTOS: In North America, 2023 was a year for all the emotions**

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Hatched salmon with yolk sacs swim alongside unhatched eggs at the Atlantic Sapphire Bluehouse indoor salmon farm in Homestead, Fla., on June 28, 2023. The company's system relies on an uncommon feature of the groundwater near the warehouse's location: Salmon need both fresh and salt water, and both are found nearby. (AP Photo/Rebecca Blackwell)



**AP PHOTOS: In North America, 2023 was a year for all the emotions**

Volunteer Daniel Hyde of Miami Beach, Fla., clips a fragment of coral to be transplanted from the coral nursery to the reef near Key Biscayne, Fla., on Aug. 4, 2023. Scientists from the University of Miami Rosenstiel School of Marine, Atmospheric, and Earth Science established a new restoration research site there to identify and better understand the heat tolerance of certain coral species and genotypes during bleaching events. (AP Photo/Wilfredo Lee)





# AP PHOTOS: In North America, 2023 was a year for all the emotions



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An Atlantic puffin brings a beak full of baitfish to feed its chick in a burrow under rocks on Eastern Egg Rock, a small island off the coast of Maine on Aug. 5, 2023. (AP Photo/Robert F. Bukatv)

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# AP PHOTOS: In North America, 2023 was a year for all the emotions



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Simone Biles performs on the uneven bars at the U.S. Classic gymnastics competition on Aug. 5, 2023, in Hoffman Estates, Ill. (AP Photo/Morrv Gash)

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# AP PHOTOS: In North America, 2023 was a year for all the emotions



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The hall of historic Waiola Church in Lahaina and nearby Lahaina Hongwanji Mission are engulfed in flames on Aug. 8, 2023, in Lahaina, Hawaii. (Matthew Thaver/The Maui News via AP)

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## AP PHOTOS: In North America, 2023 was a year for all the emotions



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The McDougall Creek wildfire burns on the mountainside above houses in West Kelowna, British Columbia, on Aug. 18, 2023. This year was Canada's worst fire season on record. (Darrvl Dvck/The Canadian Press via AP)

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# AP PHOTOS: In North America, 2023 was a year for all the emotions



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Former Mayor of New York Rudy Giuliani speaks to reporters as he leaves his apartment building in New York on Aug. 23, 2023. (AP Photo/Seth Wenig)

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# AP PHOTOS: In North America, 2023 was a year for all the emotions



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Surfers float in the water while waiting for a wave in Malibu, Calif., on Aug. 31, 2023. (AP Photo/Jae C. Hong)





## AP PHOTOS: In North America, 2023 was a year for all the emotions



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Migrants who crossed into the U.S. from Mexico pass under concertina wire along the Rio Grande river, on Sept. 21, 2023, in Eagle Pass, Texas. (AP Photo/Eric Gav)

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Dancers rehearse for the "2023 Christmas Spectacular Starring the Radio City Rockettes" at St. Paul the Apostle Church in New York on Oct. 19, 2023. (AP Photo/Andres Kudacki)

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# AP PHOTOS: In North America, 2023 was a year for all the emotions



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Protestors cross the Brooklyn Bridge in New York on Oct. 28, 2023, in a pro-Palestinian demonstration demanding a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas. (AP Photo/Andres Kudacki)

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# AP PHOTOS: In North America, 2023 was a year for all the emotions



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People sign "I love you" while gathered at a vigil for the victims of Wednesday's mass shootings, Sunday, Oct. 29, 2023, outside the Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul in Lewiston, Maine. (AP Photo/Matt Rourke)

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# AP PHOTOS: In North America, 2023 was a year for all the emotions



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Jelly Roll performs "Need a Favor" at the 57th Annual CMA Awards on Nov. 8, 2023, at the Bridgestone Arena in Nashville, Tenn. (AP Photo/George Walker IV)

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# AP PHOTOS: In North America, 2023 was a year for all the emotions



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Royce Soble, of Atlanta, sits near a reflection pool at The Carter Center in Atlanta after the announcement that former first lady Rosalynn Carter had died. Sunday, Nov. 19, 2023. (AP Photo/Brvnn Anderson)

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## As Israel fights to destroy Hamas, the group's popularity surges among Palestinians

DECEMBER 21, 2023 · 5:00 AM ET



Brian Mann



During protests in the West Bank, Palestinians carry Hamas flags and chant support for the Qassam Brigades, the military wing of Hamas.

Brian Mann/NPR

RAMALLAH, West Bank — More than two months into Israel's war against Hamas, the militant group's popularity among Palestinians appears to be rising dramatically. "Hamas made the most important action against Israel since its existence," says Nihad Abughosh, a Palestinian journalist and political analyst, who describes himself as a secular moderate. "To me it's something like a miracle, the 7th of October," he tells NPR in an interview in Ramallah, in the Israeli-occupied West Bank. The Oct. 7 attack by Hamas that Israeli officials say killed more than 1,200 people is viewed in Israel and much of the West as an act of terrorism, that included the killing of women and children. The United States has long designated Hamas a terrorist organization. **But many Palestinians view Oct. 7 very differently — as a legitimate act of defiance.** During more than two weeks of interviews in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, dozens of people told NPR they don't accept evidence that Hamas targeted and killed civilians.

**An attack viewed by Israelis as brutal terrorism is seen by Palestinians as an act of resistance:** Fadi Quran, a West Bank activist and organizer who works for the progressive advocacy group Avaaz, says he is personally troubled by accounts of Hamas violence against women and children. But he says many Palestinians refuse to believe those stories. "Palestinians do not support the harming of innocents," Quran says. "From the first day, there was a question on many Palestinians' minds: Is this all true?" Quran says he supports a peaceful resolution to the war. But he believes many Palestinians now see Hamas as a symbol of strength and defiance against Israel's occupation. "This idea that Gaza, after 17 years of blockade, was capable of challenging the blockade, challenging the military occupation, was seen as an inspiring act of resistance," he says. Surveys conducted since Oct. 7 appear to reflect the surge of support for Hamas in the West Bank.

**"Three months ago ... we had 12% support for Hamas in the West Bank, and today it is 44%, so that's more than tripled,"** says Khalil Shikaki, director of the Palestinian Center for Policy and Research. **Public support for Hamas in the Gaza Strip also rose modestly during the same period, from 38% to 42%,** according to the center's survey conducted from Nov. 22-Dec. 2. The survey, published Dec. 13, found less than half of Palestinians support Hamas as an organization, but respondents showed "wide public support for Hamas' offensive" against Israel. A previous poll conducted by the group Arab World for Research and Development in late October and early November found 68% of Palestinians in the West Bank supported Hamas' Oct. 7 attack.

**"Resistance" followed by the freeing of Palestinians:** People in the West Bank say there's another reason Hamas' brand has surged in popularity. In November, Israel agreed to release hundreds of Palestinian prisoners from Israeli jails, many of them held without criminal charges, in exchange for Hamas freeing some of the hostages taken during the Oct. 7 attack. To many Palestinians, that deal represented another victory for Hamas, another sign of strength. "Hamas is going in the right direction," says Hanan Barghouti, 59, who was arrested by Israel in September for allegedly aiding Hamas. She was released from jail last month as part of the hostage-for-prisoner exchange and believes if not for Hamas' pressure, she would not have been freed. Barghouti told NPR she is heartened by the surge in popularity for Hamas in the West Bank. **"Any person under occupation has the right to fight,"** she says, during an interview in her home in Ramallah. "Hamas' reputation has grown, not only locally but even on the international level." Drinking coffee in her living room, with her grandchildren playing nearby, Barghouti says there's one more key reason Hamas has gained support. Many Palestinians now share the long-standing conviction of Hamas and its leadership that the time for peace talks and a negotiated settlement with Israel has ended, she says. **"Palestine is for Palestinians," she says. "This is our house, our land."**

**A war against Hamas that is "radicalizing" Palestinians:** Indeed this view — that Palestinians cannot co-exist with the state of Israel — was voiced to NPR again and again in the West Bank by shopkeepers, laborers, taxi drivers, farmers and government officials. They told NPR that years of negotiations between Palestinians, Israeli leaders and diplomats from the U.S. and other countries toward a two-state solution have brought Palestinians nothing — no independence and no relief from Israeli occupation. Pollster Shikaki says this belief is reflected in surveys of Palestinians, a majority of whom now believe "if they want to become independent and free of Israeli occupation, they must resort to armed struggle." "And when they look around at who can deliver armed struggle, they look at what Hamas had done on Oct. 7," Shikaki says. Even many moderates say the time has come for Hamas' militant, armed approach to resistance and confrontation with Israel. They also say the more moderate Palestinian Authority — the official government of the West Bank, which still supports a negotiated "political" settlement with Israel — has seen its popular support collapse in recent years, in part because of what many Palestinians view as collaboration with Israeli security officials. "The bad performance of the [Palestinian] Authority here, this gives power to Hamas," says Abughosh, the journalist and analyst.

Many Palestinians point to Israel's continuing air-and-ground assaults on Gaza — killing nearly 20,000 Palestinians since the war began in October, according to Gaza's Health Ministry — as evidence that co-existence is not possible. In the West Bank, too, there has been increased violence by Israeli settlers and more aggressive Israeli military raids into refugee camps that have killed more than 290 Palestinians since Oct. 7, according to United Nations figures. "The nonstop violence is really radicalizing all Palestinian society," says Quran, who himself is not a supporter of Hamas and supports a nonviolent end to the war.

**"Basically, the people do not feel safe around anyone who even professes support for Israel."**



MIDDLE EAST CRISIS — EXPLAINED

### What the resumption of Israel-Hamas fighting means for Palestinians in Israeli jails





## The Evil Israel Does is the Evil Israel Gets - Read by Eunice Wong

Israel's settler colonial project perpetuates the cycle of violence against the indigenous inhabitants of historic Palestine. Palestinians...

22 HRS AGO • CHRIS HEDGES



***Palestinians have been forced to speak back in the language Israel speaks.*** On Friday, the United Nations Security Council voted 13-1 for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and unconditional release of all hostages. The U.S. voted against the resolution. The U.K. abstained. The draft resolution was not adopted due to the U.S. veto. Biden's real base is not disenfranchised voters but the billionaire class, corporations, such as the weapons industry, which is making huge profits from the wars in Gaza and Ukraine, and groups such as the Israel lobby. They determine policy, even if it means Biden's defeat in the next presidential election. If Biden loses, the oligarchs get Donald Trump, who serves their interests as doggedly as Biden. The wars do not end. The suffering continues. The Palestinians die in the tens of thousands. This is by design. Israel's scorched earth campaign in Gaza means there will be no peace. There will be no two state solution. Apartheid and genocide will define Israel. This presages a long, long conflict, one the Jewish State cannot ultimately win.

## The Death of Israel

Settler colonial states have a terminal shelf life. Israel is no exception.

DEC 17 • CHRIS HEDGES

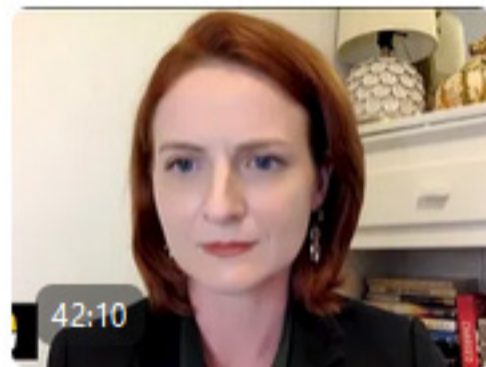


Fifty years ago, the United States embarked on a path of mass incarceration that has led to a staggering increase in the prison population. Today, almost 2 million individuals – disproportionately Black Americans – are incarcerated in our nation's prisons and jails. The prison population has grown 500% since 1973, the year America began to sharply increase its prison population. **Our system of mass incarceration holds 25 percent of the world's prison population although we are less and 5 percent of the global population.**

## The Chris Hedges Report with attorney Liz Komar on the decay of the American legal system, the criminalization of poverty and the crisis of...

Fifty years ago, the United States embarked on a path of mass incarceration that has led to a staggering increase in the prison...

DEC 15 • CHRIS HEDGES



## No Way Out but War

Permanent war has cannibalized the country. It has created a social, political, and economic morass. Each ne...

MAY 22, 2022 • CHRIS HEDGES



## The Genocide in Gaza

A Letter to the Children of Gaza

DEC 9 • CHRIS HEDGES



***... a truth that was to be forever unspoken, the militarists had sold out the American people.***





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Mr. Fish occasionally laughs his head off. His mother has no idea what he's up to. She cries easily.

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*Dwayne Booth, more commonly known as Mr. Fish, is an American political cartoonist based in Philadelphia.*

Universal Misery



"Who invited that lousy anti-Semite?"





**Dwayne Booth**, more commonly known as Mr. Fish, is an American political cartoonist based in Philadelphia. His work has appeared in Harper's Magazine, The Nation, The Village Voice, Truthdig, The Atlantic, and the LA Times.

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yanulya\_kotsuba Oh please, for all those about to bleat "Russian propaganda" - do us all a favor and STFU. You are the reason why U.S. & Friends rages around the world with their "noble" wars. Is 4.5 million not enough? Or is that Russian propaganda? You're the reason why Palestine I sunder the thumb of fascist lunatics sponsored by U.S. & Friends. Really and truly, the world is sick of you and all your rabid leaders. 29w 1 like Reply

oilpaintsmith Our parents fought fascist, so there kids could grow up to support fascist. Ugh

346 likes May 29

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A 2023 SOLDIER THANKING A 1945 SOLDIER FOR FIGHTING FASCISM DURING WWII AND CEMENTING IN THE IDEA THAT IT WOULD BE WRONG TO SEE ANY MEMBER OF THE U.S. MILITARY AS ANYTHING OTHER THAN THE INSPIRING EMBODIMENT OF HEROISM AND VIRTUE EVEN AFTER THE UNITED STATES HAS SHIFTED ITS MISSION FROM FIGHTING FASCISM TO ADVANCING A CORPORATIZED VERSION OF IT



# No Way Out but War

Permanent war has cannibalized the country. It has created a social, political, and economic morass. Each new military debacle is another nail in the coffin of Pax Americana.



CHRIS HEDGES

MAY 22, 2022

“No Guts No Glory” by Mr. Fish





**Hope and resilience** for the new year, 2024:  
*A child planting a tree where ferns unfurl after being flattened by a footprint.*





# Inflation has cooled a lot. So why do things still feel so expensive?

DECEMBER 16, 2023 · 6:00 AM ET



Scott Horsley

Inflation has cooled significantly in recent months — but you may still find yourself paying more at the grocery store or the doctor's office than before the pandemic. It's a big reason why people are unhappy about the economy, as this recent Gallup poll revealed, even if by many measures the economy is actually doing quite well. So what does it actually mean when inflation is easing? Simply put, falling inflation, or "disinflation," means prices are rising more slowly than they had been. That's a good thing. Grocery prices have climbed less than 2% in the last 12 months, compared to a 12% jump the previous year, which gave many people sticker shock at the supermarket. What many people want to see, however, is "deflation," when prices actually come down. Falling prices are not generally good for the economy, though.

## Here are four things to keep in mind:

*Don't Dis the Disinflation:* Inflation has fallen sharply — from a peak of 9.1% last year to just 3.1% in November. That's giving the Federal Reserve a lot of comfort, even though policy makers still want inflation to ease more. On Wednesday, the Fed signaled it may start cutting interest rates next year, triggering a big rally in the stock market. Fed officials are aware, though, that many Americans aren't celebrating just yet.

"Most Americans are not just looking for disinflation," Fed governor Lisa Cook said last month, during a speech at Duke University. "They're looking for deflation. **They want these prices to be back where they were before the pandemic.**" Cook said she understands that sentiment and hears similar complaints from her own family. But deflation is not the Fed's target. The central bank actually prefers rising prices, so long as they rise slowly enough that people don't have to worry about them.

*Why falling prices are not necessarily good:* Falling prices may sound like a good thing, but widespread price cuts — what economists call "deflation" — is typically a symptom of economic distress. Japan has struggled with deflation since the early 1990s, leading to years of subdued economic growth. The U.S. did experience deflation in the early months of the pandemic, and it wasn't pleasant. Prices plunged because people were stuck at home, unable to go shopping or out to restaurants. Sure, gasoline was cheap, but only because most people weren't driving anywhere.

If deflation becomes entrenched, it can be a drag on the broader economy. While it's always fun to get a discount, when prices are steadily falling across the board, it tends to discourage consumption — which is the biggest engine of U.S. economic growth. Why buy a washing machine today if it's going to be cheaper next year? That's why the Fed's goal for inflation is not zero but 2%, with prices rising fast enough to avoid deflation but slowly enough that most people don't spend much time thinking about it.

*Some prices are falling:* The inflation rate — 3.1% in November — tells us that overall prices are still rising. But that figure is compiled from thousands of individual prices, some of which are going down while others are going up. Over the last year, for example, the price of eggs has fallen more than 22%. Air fares have dropped more than 12%. And the price of smartphones has fallen by 14%. Some of these price declines reflect the unwinding of earlier price increases. **Egg prices, for example, soared when avian flu hit the country's hen houses, then fell back to earth as laying flocks recovered.** Other prices are adjusted for quality improvements. A smartphone today might sell for the same price as one did two years ago, but if today's phone has a much better camera, that might be counted as a price cut. In any given month, some goods and services will show "deflation," but that's usually offset by rising prices of other items.

*Rising wages will help:* Inflation is particularly unsettling when the cost of living rises faster than people's paychecks, and families struggle just to maintain their standard of living, let alone get ahead. That was the case for many people in 2022, when inflation hit a four-decade high. For the last seven months, though, average wages have risen faster than prices. If that continues, workers should be able to gain ground. "That might help improve the mood of people," Fed Chair Jerome Powell said this week. Of course, most people tend to think of wage increases as a reward for their own hard work, while price increases are something that's inflicted on them. Still, a trend in which wages are outpacing inflation should produce a happier outcome over time — and eventually, perhaps, make people feel less grumpy about the economy.



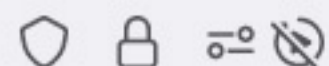


Thursday, December 21, 2023

(2) Charmin Ultra Soft Toilet Paper 30 Mega Rolls,  
224 Sheets Per Roll | \$71.07 delivered







<https://chrishedges.substack.com/p/a-two-part-christmas-special-with>



## The Chris Hedges Report

Covering US foreign policy, economic realities, and civil liberties in American society.



1. Imitation is flattery. Here are some of Charlie's English imitators trying to look and act like him.

the photog-

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stay there

### A Two Part Christmas Special with Golden Globe winning Film Director Martin Brest, who directed *Scent of a Woman*, *Midnight Run* and other films, on the Genius of Charlie Chaplin.



CAMERON M. GRANADINO  
DEC 21, 2023

No single individual did more to shape modern cinema than the actor, director and producer **Charlie Chaplin**. One of the greatest of all comic mimes he also pioneered cinematic techniques and story-telling. His films, with his iconic role as the beleaguered little tramp with baggy trousers, moustache, cane and bowler hat, were not only comic masterpieces, but **unflinching looks at poverty, unemployment, capitalist exploitation, the callousness of authority, the search for meaning and dignity in a hostile world and the yearning for love and acceptance**. He argued that drama should be derived from the close observation of life. He refused to follow the conventions, including the penchant for exaggerated melodrama, perfecting his work with hundreds of takes, subtle acting and nuanced facial expressions. He created full length feature films with highly crafted plots and characters. He strove, he said, "to put across the philosophical doubt I feel about things and people." His films, he said, were a metaphysical exercise, an attempt to unmask as "absurd, antiquated, and unfair to humanity" the idea that there exists "a cosmos where humans were held responsible for their actions or the results of their actions." The French filmmaker Jean Luc Goddard wrote of Chaplin that "while remaining marginal to the rest of cinema" he "ended up filling this margin with more things (what other word can one use: ideas, gags, intelligence, honor, beauty, movement?) than all directors together have put in a whole book." Chaplin, the most famous silent film star of his era, swiftly earned the enmity of J. Edgar Hoover and the FBI who saw in his poignant portrayals of the marginalized and forgotten political subversion. The FBI, which began investigating Chaplin in 1922 and would amass an FBI file of 1,900 pages on him for his alleged "communist sympathies," finally drove him into exile. In 1952, while Chaplin was in London for the premier of his film *Limelight*, the U.S. Attorney General revoked Chaplin's re-entry permit. This ended his Hollywood career. He would spend the rest of his life in Switzerland. Joining me to discuss the importance and legacy of Charlie Chaplin is the film director, screenwriter and producer Martin Brest. Martin has directed numerous films some of which include *Midnight Run* with Robert De Niro, for which he won a Golden Globe Nomination for Best Motion Picture, *Scent of a Woman* with Al Pacino, for which he won the Golden Globe for Best Motion Picture, with Pacino winning for Best Actor along with the blockbuster *Beverly Hills Cop*, nominated for the Golden Globe Award for Best Motion Picture and the Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay.





Joel Roberts Poinsett is given credit for bringing the popular red and green plant to the U.S.  
Constantine Johnny/Getty Images

## Joel Roberts Poinsett: Namesake of the poinsettia, enslaver, secret agent and perpetrator of the 'Trail of Tears'

Published: December 19, 2023 2:33pm EST

↳ Lindsay Schakenbach Regele, Miami University

If people know the name Joel Roberts Poinsett today, it is likely because of the red and green poinsettia plant. In the late 1820s, while serving as the first ambassador from the U.S. to Mexico, Poinsett clipped samples of the plant known in Spanish as the "flor de nochebuena," or flower of Christmas Eve, from the Mexican state of Guerrero. He then introduced it to the U.S. on a trip home from Mexico. The plant has been named poinsettia ever since. But much like the history of the U.S., Poinsett had a complex and troubling past. An ambitious politician, financial investor and enslaver, Poinsett was a secret agent for the U.S. government in South America who fought for the Chilean army against Spain during Chile's War for Independence in the early 1800s. **A confidant of President Andrew Jackson, Poinsett also served as U.S. secretary of war under President Martin Van Buren and oversaw the ignominy of the Trail of Tears, the forced relocation and deadly march of Cherokee people from the South to reservations in the West during the 1830s.** And yet Poinsett, an avid botanist who brought scores of other plants to the U.S., also helped found an organization that led to the creation of the Smithsonian Institution.

**A privileged life:** I came across his history almost by accident. I am a historian of capitalism in early America, and while I was on a research fellowship for my first book, "Manufacturing Advantage: War, the State, and the Origins of American Industry," another researcher suggested I go to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania to check out the papers of a few War Department officials. Poinsett was one of those officials. There, I found a large collection of his letters and other personal papers that spanned five decades of his life. I became so fascinated with his life that I decided to write a book about him. I detail his complicated life in another book, "Flowers, Guns, and Money: Joel Roberts Poinsett and the Paradoxes of American Patriotism." Born and raised in Charleston, South Carolina, on March 2, 1779, Poinsett was the son of a wealthy doctor and lived a life of privilege. He traveled throughout Europe and Russia in his early 20s before starting a military career. In the 1810s, Poinsett traveled around South America as a secret agent of the U.S. State Department. **His intelligence reports led in part to the drafting of the Monroe Doctrine.** That doctrine, written by Secretary of State John Adams and buried in President James Monroe's address to Congress on Dec. 2, 1823, sought to prevent European colonization in South America and, in essence, claimed the entire Western Hemisphere for the U.S. The doctrine also set the stage for two centuries of rocky relations between the U.S. and Latin America. In 1825, the Monroe administration appointed Poinsett as the nation's first ambassador to Mexico. He arrived there in the spring of that year and almost immediately instigated a general distrust of American interference. He used his connections to secure favorable plots of land for himself and his friends and established a U.S.-based mining company to exploit Mexican resources for his own benefit. I

**Poinsett's Latin America meddling:** That same year, Poinsett also supported a coup in Mexico City. During the Mexican presidential campaign in 1829, Poinsett supported Vicente Guerrero, whom he saw as more amenable to his and U.S. financial interests. When Guerrero lost to moderate Manuel Gómez Pedraza, Guerrero staged a coup with Poinsett's approval that forced Gómez Pedraza to flee Mexico. Because of Poinsett's poor conduct during the election, the Mexican government requested Poinsett's removal from his post. President Andrew Jackson instead allowed Poinsett to resign. Poinsett left Mexico and went back home to South Carolina. On Oct. 24, 1833, at 54 years old, Poinsett married a 52-year-old, wealthy widow from South Carolina who owned a rice plantation and almost 100 enslaved people. Though he wrote that he enjoyed married plantation life, he was not done with politics or the military. **In 1837, Poinsett was named U.S. secretary of war and oversaw the execution of Jackson's 1830 Indian Removal Act that the Cherokee people referred to as the Trail of Tears. That act saw the violent displacement of members of the Cherokee, Muscogee, Seminole, Chickasaw and Choctaw nations from their homelands in the South to reservations in the West.**



# MIT, Yale, and other elite colleges are finally reaching out to rural students

DECEMBER 22, 2023 · 5:00 AM ET

FROM **HECHINGER REPORT**

By Elissa Nadworny, Jon Marcus

Recruiters from some of the nation's most selective universities — MIT, the University of Chicago, Yale — have, for the first time, come to her "little no-name town." It's part of an effort by top schools to pay more attention to rural America, where students are less likely than their urban and suburban counterparts to go to college and, if they do, are more likely to drop out.



Marla McCreless, a junior at Cookeville High School, and her parents, Mark and Chastity McCreless, talk to University of Tennessee recruiter Dakota Hodges.

*Austin Anthony for the Hechinger Report*



## U.S.-funded infrastructure in Gaza largely unscathed as death toll soars

The United States has spent more than \$7 billion on humanitarian aid and building infrastructure in the Palestinian territories in recent decades, while sending more than \$3 billion a year to Israel for its military.

### READ MORE

- Gaza death toll surpasses 20,000 and Israel expands ground offensive despite pressure to scale back  54 MINS AGO
- Israel's military campaign in Gaza seen as among the most destructive in recent history, experts say 
- UN again delays vote on watered-down Gaza aid resolution. The US backs it, others want stronger text



This satellite image provided by Maxar Technologies shows the Gaza Sports Club in Gaza City on Nov. 1, 2023, after it was damaged. Less than a year before a Hamas attack out of Gaza sparked a war, one of the oldest and largest sports complexes in the Palestinian territories got a much-needed overhaul: Brand new basketball, volleyball and tennis courts, a soccer field, a running track and, for the first time, accessible bathrooms. It was a \$519,000 upgrade, paid for by U.S. taxpayers. (Maxar Technologies via AP)

**In 1999, the new Mission Director, Larry Garber, had ambitious plans to build a vibrant economy in Gaza while promoting peace in the region.** There would be strawberry markets and flower exports, a major desalination plant and water system. At the same time, U.S. taxpayers began paying nearly \$3 billion a year to Israel to support its military efforts. Less than a year later, the second Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation erupted. There were both airstrikes and ground operations, with tanks and armored vehicles. Garber said he would meet with Israeli military leaders and ask them not to hit the U.S.-backed projects. "We would literally tell them, here's the geolocations of our various projects, and for the most part in those days we didn't have incidents of destruction of those facilities," he said. However, Garber said he remembers USAID complaining to Israeli authorities after four recently repaired agricultural wells were destroyed in an airstrike in 2003. A roadside bombing that year struck a U.S. diplomatic convoy, killing three Americans and prompting the U.S. to bar its diplomatic personnel from entering Gaza. USAID has continued to sponsor projects through local contractors. Plans for a major U.S. water project were shelved when Hamas seized control of Gaza from the internationally recognized Palestinian Authority in 2007, and for years USAID scaled back. The U.S. considers Hamas, an Islamic militant group sworn to Israel's destruction, a terror organization, and has no direct contact with it. "During my time, we didn't build any big roads, we didn't have any big water projects," said Sumka, who was mission director at the time. "We were forbidden to go in there." Development work resumed when tensions eased, said Mike Harvey, who was mission director from 2010 to 2013. But the cycle continued: The U.S. would build, advise Israeli authorities the geolocation of the infrastructure and hope for the best. Israel and Hamas have fought five wars and numerous skirmishes since late 2008. "This reflects the priorities Israelis give to make sure that no U.S.-funded infrastructure is hit," Harvey said, because of the obvious "discomfort from that." The decision to rebuild USAID-branded projects again and again has also been part of a larger political strategy to turn the Palestinian population against Hamas, mission directors said. "Humanitarian aid was the driving incentive," Harvey said. But "it's sending a political message to the people of Gaza: We are not their enemy." It's also about hope. The purpose of the Gaza and West Bank mission was to help stabilize the region and bolster opportunities for Palestinians, ranging from brokering cross-border trade agreements to education programs and infrastructure projects. **But the scale of this particularly violent and deadly war may also influence what USAID is able to accomplish in the future. Nothing gets built in Gaza without agreement from Israel, which may be reluctant to greenlight big infrastructure projects without firm guarantees that no supplies useful for weapons reach Hamas.** "Can you imagine how difficult it will be to rebuild Gaza after the scale of destruction we're seeing this time around?" Harvey said. Some of the former USAID directors said their hope for Gaza's future is waning. "There was always some hope that we'd be able to negotiate a solution, as naive as that sounds," Harden said. "I was always a believer. Not anymore, sadly."



The New York Times: Dec 6, 2023 — Republicans Block Aid to Ukraine, . . .

Pew Research Center: Dec 8, 2023 — 48% of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents say the U.S. is giving too much aid to Ukraine.



Friends and relatives pay their last respects to Ukrainian serviceman Anrii Trachuk, during his funeral service on Independence square in Kyiv, Ukraine, Friday, Dec. 15, 2023. Trachuk was a veteran of Revolution of Dignity and was killed by Russian forces on Dec. 9, 2023 near Kherson. (AP Photo/Evgeniy Maloletka)



The New York Times: Dec 6, 2023 — Republicans Block Aid to Ukraine, . . .

Pew Research Center: Dec 8, 2023 — 48% of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents say the U.S. is giving too much aid to Ukraine.

## AP Week in Pictures: Europe and Africa



7 of 15

Ukrainian servicemen cry near the coffin of their comrade Andrii Trachuk during his funeral service on Independence square in Kyiv, Ukraine. Friday, Dec. 15, 2023. Trachuk was a veteran of Revolution of Dignity and was killed by Russian forces on Dec. 9, 2023



EATER

### These Are the Biggest San Diego Restaurant Stories of 2023

18 hours ago • Candice Woo



*This list of most-read stories highlights a number of high-profile openings, including several **Eater Awards winners**, as well as features about tacos, burritos, Asian food, and the Michelin Guide:*

- The Lafayette Hotel Enters a New Era of Glamour in North Park
- A Dreamy Daytime Cafe and Pop-Up Dinner Space Opens in Leucadia
- A Bakery Specializing in Not-Too-Sweet Asian Desserts Is Opening in Kearny Mesa
- One of Tokyo's Most Famous Ramen Chains Is Coming to San Diego
- Oceanside's Valle Restaurant Earns a Michelin Star
- Climb Aboard Pacific Beach's Luxe New Nautical Speakeasy, the Captain's Quarters
- Iconic Texas Breakfast Tacos Have Arrived in San Diego
- Unveiling Pacific Beach's Brand New Six-Restaurant Food Hall
- Inside the Japanese Cafe, Speakeasy, and Sushi Bar That Shares a Roof in the East Village

U-2

### Another downtown encampment is cleared as homelessness...

11 hours ago • Blake Nelson



San Diego officials have cleared another encampment downtown, further decreasing the **homeless population** in the city's urban core even as the crisis grows throughout the region. The latest effort focused on East Village sidewalks near the old central library and the U.S. Post Office, officials announced Wednesday. Nearly 100 people were connected to housing or shelter. The outreach was funded by a \$2.4 million grant from California's Interagency Council on Homelessness. "San Diego is putting state dollars to work by moving people off our streets and into housing," Gov. Gavin Newsom said in a statement. "It's time for more local governments to utilize these funds." At the same time, November was the 20th straight month homelessness increased overall in San Diego County.

U-2

### Massive line of thunderstorms lights up the sky from Oceanside...

4 hours ago • gary robbins



### Thunderstorm safety: How not to get hurt by lightning - The San Diego Union-...

### Rainfall Report

| Day | Dec  |
|-----|------|
| 22  | 0.31 |



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## BREAKTHROUGH ENTERTAINERS 2023



### Lily Gladstone is standing on the cusp of history

Lily Gladstone is the anguished heart and compassionate conscience of Martin Scorsese's Osage tragedy "Killers of the Flower Moon."



Reneé Rapp has always known what she wants — and isn't afraid to say no



Kris Bowers, quickly scoring the title of Hollywood's favorite composer



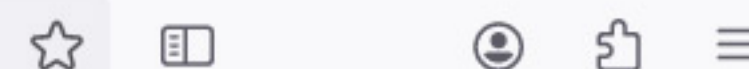
Ayo Edebiri is rising to the top, and she's bringing her friends along



Charles Melton thinks it's good it took years to make it in Hollywood







npr

### Colorado Trump ruling leads to rise in violent online rhetoric



3 hours ago • Odette Yousef

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≡ MENU

## Fmr. Pres. Jimmy Carter on Palestine, Iraq, Iran, Selling Weapons to Indonesia During the Occupation of East Timor & More

STORY SEPTEMBER 10, 2007 <<



<https://www.npr.org/2007/01/25/7004473/jimmy-carter-defends-peace-not-apartheid>

## Jimmy Carter Defends 'Peace Not Apartheid'

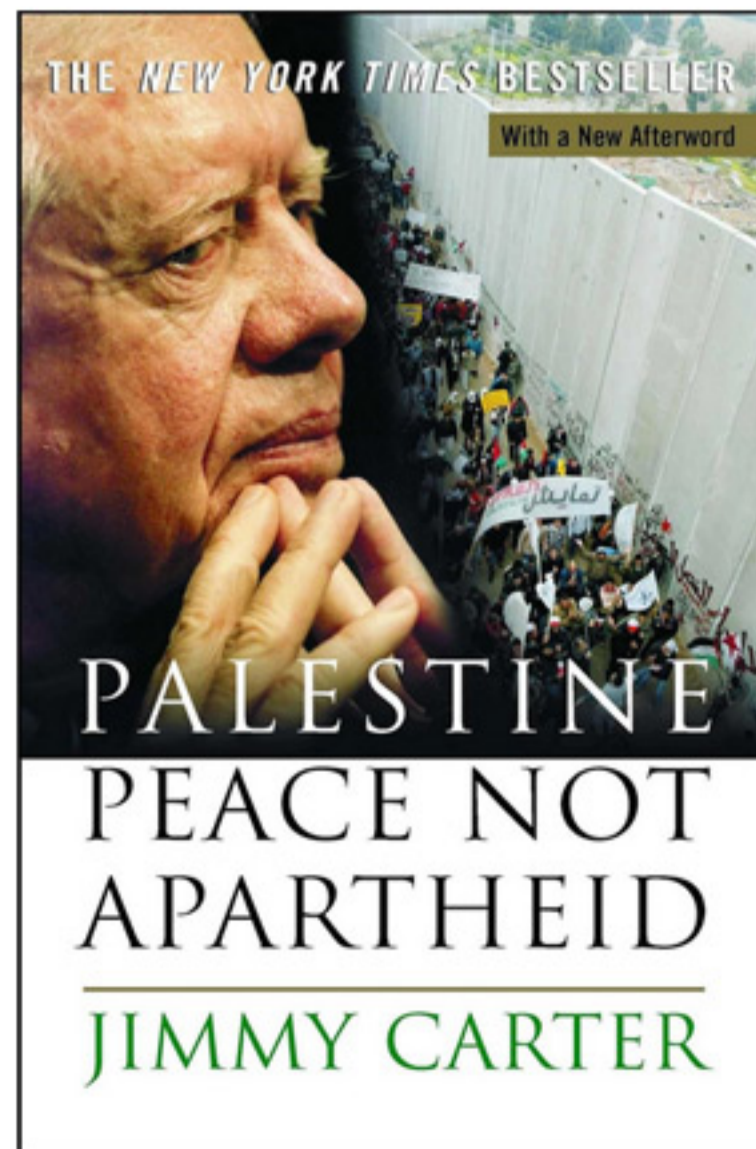
JANUARY 25, 2007 · 3:43 PM ET

*A Key Critic's Problem with Jimmy Carter's Book*

Former President Jimmy Carter finds himself in a defensive posture after criticism of his new book *Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid*. The best-seller has generated a passionate response in critics who say it is slanted toward Palestinians, and full of inaccuracies. Since the book was published, Carter says he has been branded an anti-Semite and a bigot. Reaction to the book included the resignation of 14 members of a Carter Center community board, who say Carter puts too much blame on Israel. Carter responded to those charges at Brandeis University this week, where he was later rebutted by Harvard Law School professor Alan Dershowitz.

**AMY GOODMAN:** Why don't Americans know what you have seen?

**JIMMY CARTER:** Americans **don't want to know** and many Israelis **don't want to know** what is going on inside Palestine. It's a terrible human rights persecution that far transcends what any outsider would imagine. And there are powerful political forces in America that prevent any objective analysis of the problem in the holy land. I think it's accurate to say that not a single member of Congress with whom I'm familiar would possibly speak out and call for Israel to withdraw to their legal boundaries or to publicize the plight of the Palestinians or even to call publicly and repeatedly for good faith peace talks. There hasn't been a day of peace talks now in more than seven years. So this is a taboo subject. And I would say that if any member of Congress did speak out, as I've just described, they would probably not be back in the Congress the next term.



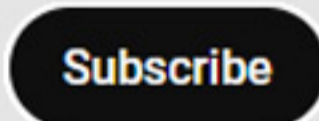
President Carter, who was able to negotiate peace between Israel and Egypt, has remained deeply involved in Middle East affairs since leaving the White House. He has stayed in touch with the major players from all sides in the conflict and has made numerous trips to the Holy Land, most recently as an observer in the Palestinian elections of 2005 and 2006. In this book, President Carter shares his intimate knowledge of the history of the Middle East and his personal experiences with the principal actors, and he addresses sensitive political issues many American officials avoid. Pulling no punches, Carter prescribes steps that must be taken for the two states to share the Holy Land without a system of apartheid or the constant fear of terrorism. The general parameters of a long-term, two-state agreement are well known, the president writes. There will be no substantive and permanent peace for any peoples in this troubled region as long as Israel is violating key UN resolutions, official American policy, and the international "road map" for peace by occupying Arab lands and oppressing the Palestinians. Except for mutually agreeable negotiated modifications, Israel's official pre-1967 borders must be honored. As were all previous administrations since the founding of Israel, US government leaders must be in the forefront of achieving this long-delayed goal of a just agreement that both sides can honor.





## Masha Gessen Responds to Controversy After Comparing Gaza to a Nazi Ghetto | Amanpour and...

 Amanpour and Company   
372K subscribers



50,688 views Dec 21, 2023 #amanpourpbs

Masha Gessen recently was awarded the prestigious Hannah Arendt Prize for Political Thought – in a scaled-back ceremony after a very public spat. The author and staff writer at The New Yorker faced backlash after comparing Gaza to Nazi-era Jewish ghettos in the essay "In the Shadow of the Holocaust." Gessen joined Michel Martin to discuss the difficulty of exercising critical thought.

The definition of anti-semitism that was written by the International Holocaust Remembrance Association, which is a non-governmental organization and this definition has no legal force per se, but it is interpreted in such a way as to basically frame any criticism of the state of Israel, and importantly to my piece, any comparison of Israeli policies to those of the Nazis as a priori anti-semitic and this definition of anti-semitism is used by this anti- anti-Semitism bureaucracy in Germany to silence any criticism.



THE  
NEW YORKER

# IN THE SHADOW OF THE HOLOCAUST

*How the politics of memory in Europe obscures what we see in Israel and Gaza today.*

By Masha Gessen

December 9, 2023

**Masha Gessen** (Russian: Мария "Маша" Александровна Гессен; born 13 January 1967) is a Russian-American journalist, author, translator, and activist who has been an outspoken critic of Vladimir Putin and Donald Trump. Gessen is nonbinary and trans and uses they/them pronouns. Gessen has written extensively on LGBT rights. Described as "Russia's leading LGBT rights activist", they have said that for many years they were "probably the only publicly out gay person in the whole country". They now live in New York with their wife and children. Gessen writes primarily in English but also in their native Russian. In addition to being the author of several non-fiction books, they have been a prolific contributor to such publications as The New York Times, . . . Since 2017, they have been a staff writer for The New Yorker.

**Arrest warrant by Russia:** In August 2023, Russia opened a criminal case against Gessen on charges of spreading "false information" about the Russian army's actions in Ukraine. In December 2023, it was reported that Gessen's name appeared on the Russian Interior Ministry's online wanted list.[36] Gessen was accused of spreading "false information" after discussing atrocities in the Ukrainian city of Bucha during an interview with Russian journalist Yury Dud.[

**Award controversy:** In August 2023, the Heinrich Böll Foundation (HBS) announced that Gessen was the winner of the Hannah Arendt Prize for Political Thought. In December, days before the award was due to be presented, the HBS said it was withdrawing its support because it objected to an essay by Gessen on the Israel– Hamas war, published in The New Yorker on December 9.[38][39] In it, Gessen argued that Germany's remembrance culture regarding the Holocaust was being used as a "cynically wielded political instrument" by the Alternative for Germany (AfD) to target Muslim immigrants. Gessen condemned the atrocities committed by Hamas in the October 7 attack, but was also critical of the Israeli bombings of the Gaza Strip, which they considered to be highly destructive, and comparable to an Eastern European ghetto "being liquidated" by the Nazis.



MIDDLE EAST CRISIS — EXPLAINED

## Despite the backlash, Masha Gessen says comparing Gaza to a Nazi-era ghetto is necessary

Journalist Masha Gessen talks to NPR's *Morning Edition* about their recent *New Yorker* essay on German Holocaust memory and the situation in Gaza — and the controversy that ensued.

▶ LISTEN · 7:10

+ PLAYLIST



Morris MacMatzen/Getty Images

Journalist Masha Gessen received a prize named after political theorist Hannah Arendt in Bremen, Germany on Saturday. The ceremony almost didn't happen after sponsors condemned Gessen's recent remarks on the Middle East.

And the thing is that if we are so morally willful that the worst can still be stopped in Gaza, and this comparison to the liquidation of the ghetto can be proven wrong, that would be the best possible outcome of comparing Gaza to a Jewish ghetto.





THE REFEREE



Pucker-up Melbourne COVID 12/10/20



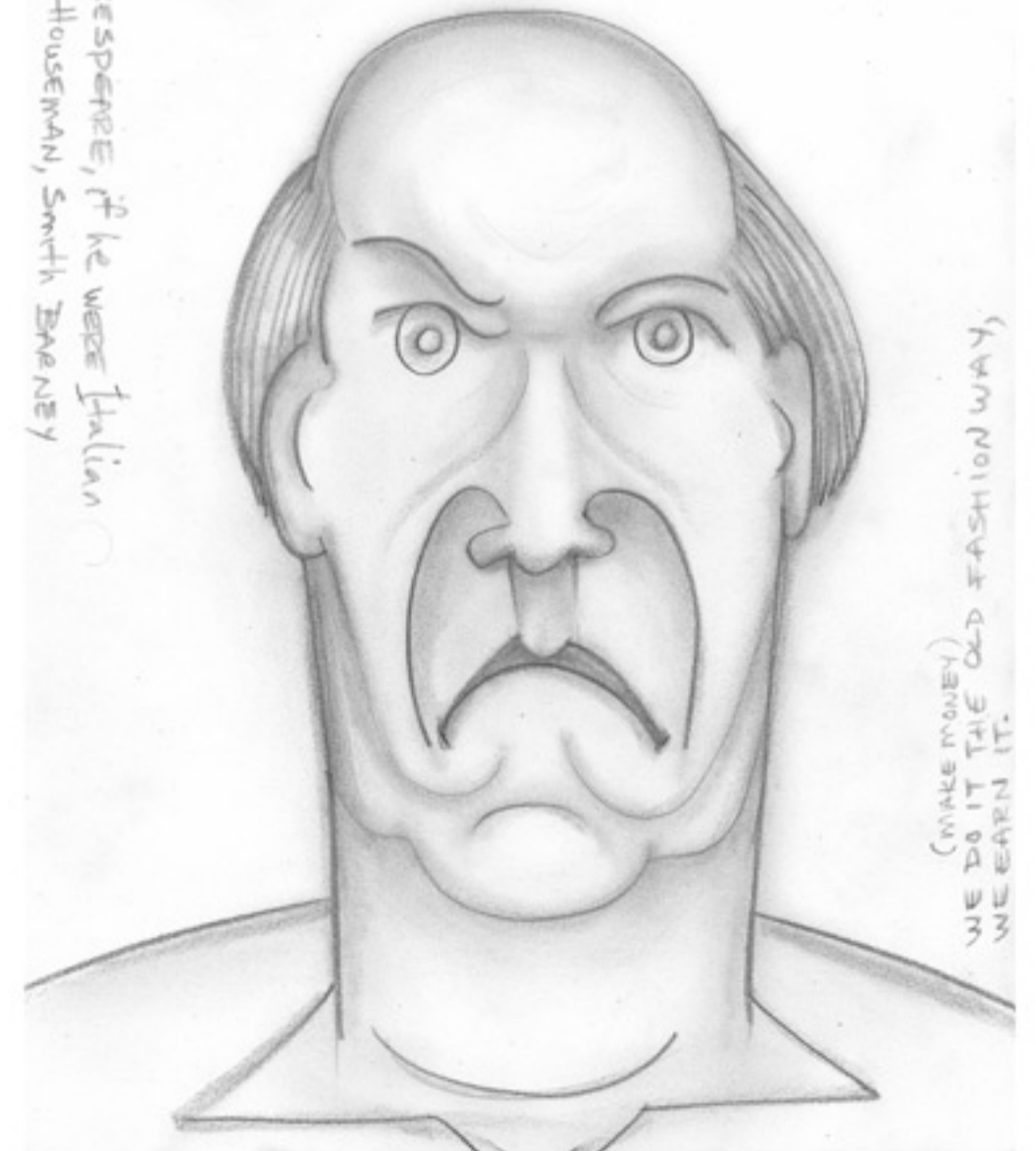
\*Count the Vote, Countless







SHAKESPEARE, if he were Italian  
John Houseman, Smith Barney











**Christiane Amanpour** ✓

@amanpour

...

The powerful new documentary *To Kill a Tiger* follows a family seeking justice after their daughter was brutally raped. I spoke with director @NishaPahuja and executive producer Dev Patel about the film, a deeply entrenched misogyny, and the refusal to be shamed.



10:52 AM · Dec 21, 2023 · 76.3K Views

Sexual violence in India: One family's pursuit of justice for their daughter. Christiane Amanpour speaks with the director of the documentary film "To Kill a Tiger," Nisha Pahuja, and Executive Producer of the film, Dev Patel, about the realities of sexual violence in India.

22 hours ago



CNN.com

<https://www.cnn.com/videos/amanpour-patel-pahuja>

Sexual violence in India: One family's pursuit of justice for their ...

*To Kill a Tiger* is a Canadian documentary film, directed by Nisha Pahuja and released in 2022. The film centres on a family in Jharkhand, India, who are campaigning for justice after their teenage daughter was brutally raped. The film premiered at the 2022 Toronto International Film Festival on September 10, 2022. Janet Smith of *Stir* praised the film, writing that Pahuja "offers the viewer remarkable access to village life, not just in the modest home where Ranjit's family make roti on an open fire, but in the fields where they herd goats and collect water from a pump. The camera finds quiet details, like Ranjit's daughter carefully weaving ribbons into her hair. Women and men insist that the community, not the criminal court, should solve the issue with a forced marriage—to remove the "stain on her". The men become increasingly hostile—to the family, and eventually to the film crew itself."

**Nisha Pahuja** (born 1967) is an Emmy-nominated filmmaker, based in Toronto, Ontario. Pahuja moved from India to Canada with her family when she was a child in the early 70s. Growing up, Nisha faced adversity as she was bombarded with a new "western lifestyle". Growing up she was strongly influenced by Bollywood films but her creative inclinations were more geared to Literature. After the 2012 Delhi gang rape case happened, Nisha became determined to screen her film *The World Before Her* across India in order to have an impact on women's rights and female foeticide and infanticide. In 2014 filmmaker Anurag Kashyap lent his name to the film in India and its release there making *The World Before Her* one of India's first theatrical releases. Later, Pahuja and her team traveled to 4 states working with NGOs and women's rights organizations screening the film in underserved communities and holding in depth conversations with various audiences. The success of the Impact campaign convinced Pahuja of the importance of documentaries in creating social change at various levels.

"There are days on the road when the magnitude of what we're hearing is overwhelming and I keep asking myself how can we make a change? Can we really be having an impact in the face of this? In a country that is systematically killing its girl children, what power does a film have or a motley crew of four even with the best of intentions? But it does, and we do because we're listening and we're challenging . . . . Change happens in small shifts, often indiscernible, often immeasurable. And sometimes the best way to make that shift is through the simple act of sharing stories."

In 2022, Pahuja released the documentary *To Kill a Tiger*, which premiered at the 2022 Toronto International Film Festival and won the award for Best Canadian Feature Film.



LAW

## The Supreme Court will not fast-track the request to review Trump's immunity

The court denied special counsel Jack Smith's petition without offering a reason for its decision.



The action now turns to the federal appeals court in Washington, which is set to hear argument in the matter on Jan. 9, 2024.



**Here are the latest casualty figures:**

**Gaza**

Killed: At least 20,057, including at least: 8,000 children and 6,200 women  
Injured: More than 53,320, including at least: 8,663 children and 6,327 women  
Missing: More than 6,700

**Occupied West Bank**

Killed: At least 303, including at least: 76 children  
Injured: More than 4,655

**Israel**

Killed: About 1,139  
Injured: At least 8,730

**Israeli attacks have damaged at least:**

Over half of Gaza's homes - 306,500 residential units have been destroyed or damaged  
352 educational facilities damaged  
27 out of 35 hospitals not functioning  
102 ambulances damaged  
197 places of worship damaged

**Every hour in Gaza:**

15 people are killed - 6 are children  
35 people are injured  
42 bombs are dropped\*  
12 buildings are destroyed

The Gaza Strip has a population of about 2.3 million people living in one of the most densely populated areas in the world. Located between Israel and Egypt on the Mediterranean coast, the Strip is about 365sq km (141sq miles).

**An unprecedented 93% of the population in Gaza is facing crisis levels of hunger, with insufficient food and high levels of malnutrition.**



*John Minchillo/AP*

**MIDDLE EAST CRISIS — EXPLAINED**

**The U.N. Security Council calls for expanded humanitarian aid in Gaza as the U.S. abstains**



Now, Sen. Mark Kelly, D-Ariz., a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, and a combat veteran, called on the U.S. Marines to explain why wounded troops weren't told the truth about a friendly fire incident in Iraq in 2004.

INVESTIGATIONS

# Senator wants Marines to explain why wounded troops weren't told the truth

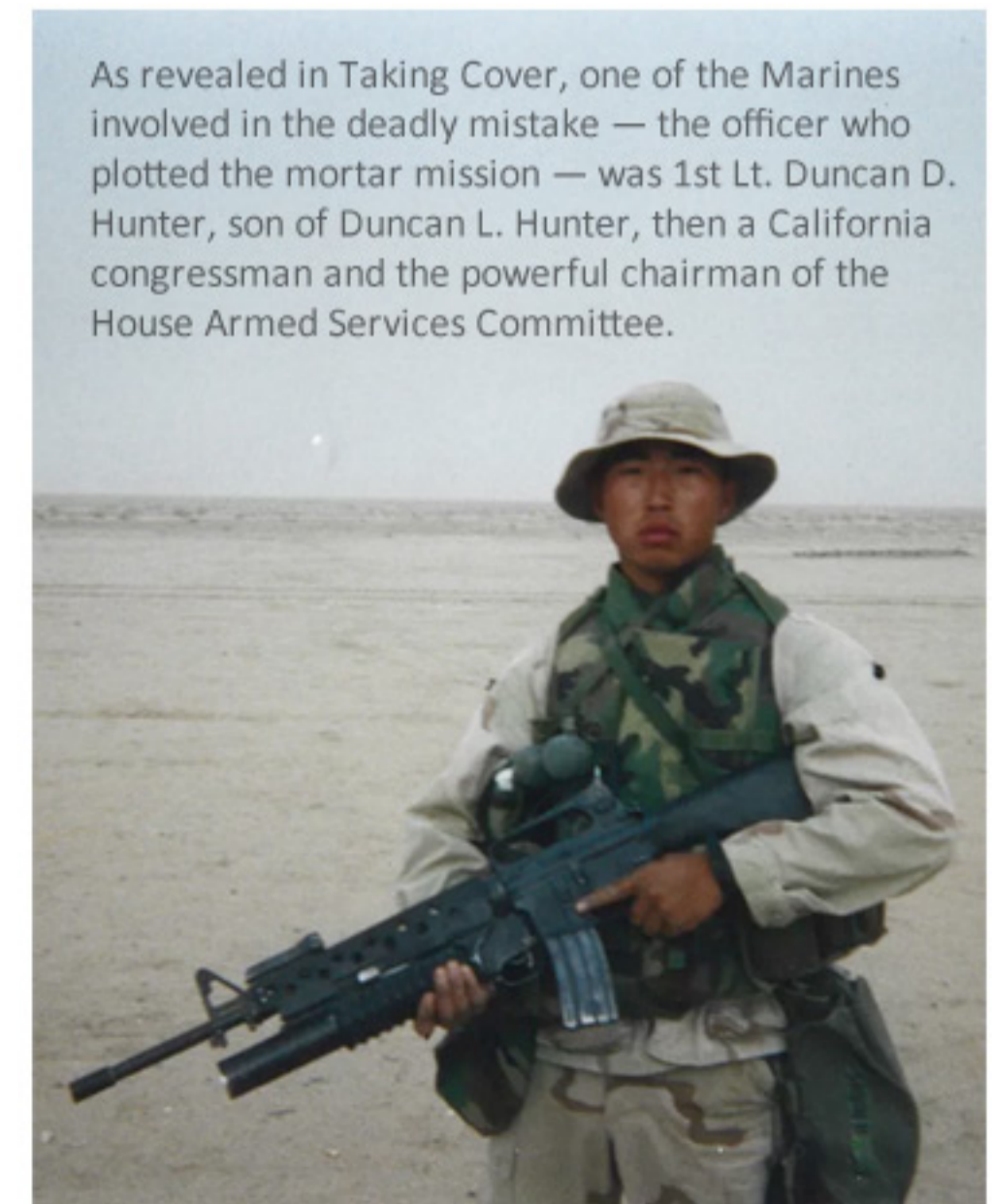
DECEMBER 22, 2023 · 11:40 AM ET

By Tom Bowman, Graham Smith



Elena Zurheide was told her husband Rob was killed by enemy fire while he was deployed in Iraq in 2004. The Marines finally acknowledged it was friendly fire three years later, under pressure from Congress, but Elena still has questions.

Graham Smith/NPR



As revealed in *Taking Cover*, one of the Marines involved in the deadly mistake — the officer who plotted the mortar mission — was 1st Lt. Duncan D. Hunter, son of Duncan L. Hunter, then a California congressman and the powerful chairman of the House Armed Services Committee.

U.S. Marine Brad Shuder died after an explosion rocked a schoolhouse in Fallujah in 2004.





Congresswoman Sara Jacobs [house.gov](https://house.gov) >

From:

congresswomansarajacobs.noreply@mail.house.gov

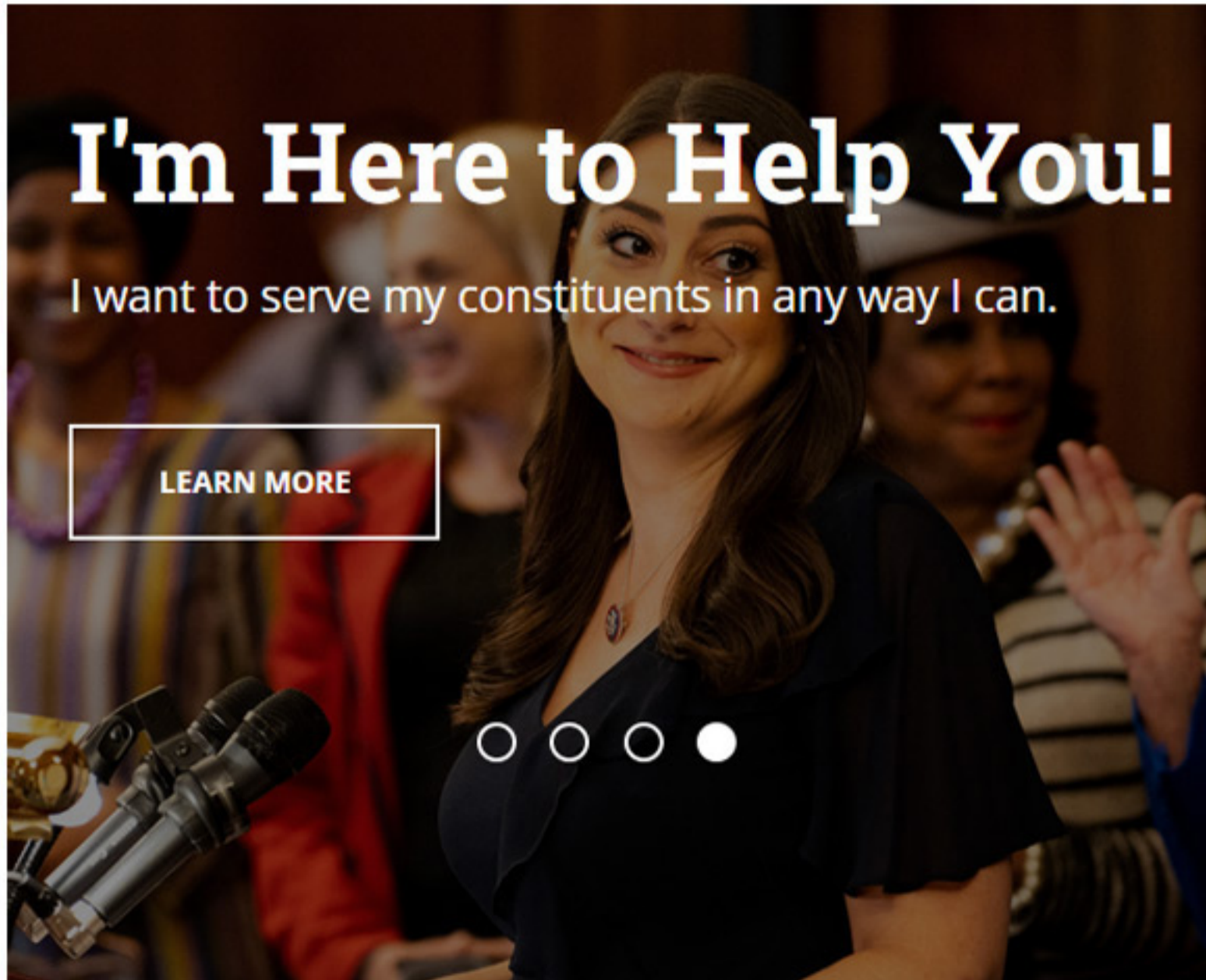
To: danlandrum@yahoo.com



Fri, Dec 22



CONGRESSWOMAN  
**SARA JACOBS**  
PROUDLY SERVING THE 51ST DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA



## Congress passed so few laws this year that we explained them all in 1,000 words

DECEMBER 22, 2023 · 5:00 AM ET

By Eric McDaniel

<https://www.npr.org/2023/12/22/1220111009/congress-passed-so-few-laws-this-year-that-we-explained-them-all-in-1-000-words>

Dear Friend,

I know it's been a tough year for many of us. Israel's war with Hamas, Russia's continued invasion of Ukraine, and many other conflicts around the world have affected so many of us deeply. And the hyper-partisanship and dysfunction in Washington hasn't made things any easier. Through all of these challenges, I'm continuing to lead with San Diego's values first and trying to find bipartisan areas to do real good in people's lives while also pushing back on Republicans' extreme policies whenever possible.

I'm so proud that I've advanced many of my bipartisan bills – to prevent drug shortages, ensure safe and high-quality privatized military housing, protect Americans' privacy, improve food security for our service members and military families, and much more. I've also pushed back on Republicans' extreme policies that would cut much-needed government services, target the LGBTQ+ community, restrict abortion access, and more.

Delivering for San Diego is at the heart of everything my office does. I'm so grateful to represent our amazing community in Congress. We've directly assisted 2,691 constituents, returned \$19 million to constituents through federal case-work, and secured more than 270 federal grants for California's 51st District this year.

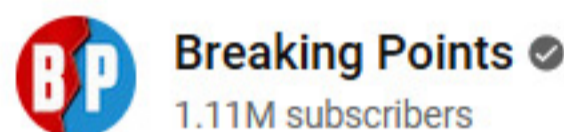
We also secured \$70 million in federal funding for San Diego's nonprofits to care for migrants and asylum seekers at the U.S.-Mexico border, and we pushed President Biden to include \$310 million in his supplemental funding request to address the cross-border pollution in the Tijuana River Valley. We also secured big wins for San Diego's military community – improving access to quality housing, helping them put food on the table, and lowering the costs of child care. Earlier this week, President Biden signed my bipartisan Military Housing Readiness Council Act into law to help guarantee safe, high-quality privatized military housing, and my provision to expand housing access for junior enlisted service members. He also signed into law my bipartisan Military Food Security Act, which would help service members and their families put food on the table.

I'm so grateful to represent our amazing community in Congress. Happy holidays to everyone celebrating! I'm excited to be home for the rest of the year and am looking forward to getting back to work and delivering for San Diego in 2024.





## Norm Finkelstein SHREDS Bill Maher's Israel Defense



Subscribe

11K

159,142 views Dec 22, 2023 #news #politics #youtube

Krystal interviews Norm Finkelstein on Bill Maher's defense of Israel.

***Why was the UN Security Council resolutions dating back to June 1976 supporting the two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict based on the pre-1967 lines were vetoed by the United States?***

Google's BARD: The US veto of UN Security Council resolutions supporting a two-state solution based on pre-1967 lines is a complex issue with numerous historical and political factors involved. Here are some key points:

### Reasons for US opposition:

**Direct negotiation:** The US argues that the specific details of the borders, including land swaps and concessions, should be negotiated directly between Israelis and Palestinians. They believe imposing fixed parameters hinders progress and could even be counterproductive.

**Israeli security concerns:** The US prioritizes Israel's security and views pre-1967 lines as potentially leaving Israel strategically vulnerable. These lines would give a Palestinian state control over strategic areas like the Jordan Valley, raising concerns about potential infiltration and attacks.

**Settlement issue:** The US has abstained from condemning some Israeli settlements and believes their status should be part of the negotiated solution. Imposing pre-1967 lines could complicate the future of existing settlements and their residents.

**Domestic politics:** US support for Israel enjoys strong bipartisan backing, and vetoing resolutions critical of Israel is often seen as politically safe or even advantageous.

### Arguments against the US position:

**International law:** Pre-1967 lines are widely seen as the basis for a two-state solution and are consistent with UN resolutions and international law. The US vetoes are criticized as undermining international legal principles and weakening the UN's authority.

**Palestinian grievances:** Palestinians view the post-1967 Israeli settlements as illegal and a major obstacle to a viable Palestinian state. They argue that insisting on direct negotiations without preconditions unfairly disadvantages them and allows Israel to continue expanding settlements.

**Stalemate and violence:** Critics argue that the current approach of prioritizing direct negotiations has yielded little progress and failed to prevent ongoing violence and settlement expansion. They believe a more proactive approach from the international community, including setting parameters based on pre-1967 lines, is needed to break the deadlock.

### Nuances and complexities:

The US position has evolved over time and is not monolithic. Some within the US government might favor a two-state solution based on pre-1967 lines with adjustments through negotiations.

The specific wording of the resolutions also plays a role. The US might be willing to support resolutions in principle but oppose them if they contain language deemed harmful to Israel's interests.

The Israeli and Palestinian positions on the two-state solution and pre-1967 lines are also not entirely settled. Both sides have presented varying ideas for adjustments and compromises.

In conclusion, the US vetoes of UN resolutions on the two-state solution are a contentious issue with no easy answers. Understanding the historical context, political priorities, and arguments on both sides is crucial to forming an informed opinion on this complex matter.



EDUCATION

# The war in Gaza is a big story on campus. These student reporters aren't shying away

DECEMBER 23, 2023 · 5:00 AM ET



By Aubri Juhasz



Students Hannah Levitan, left, and Lindsay Ruhl launched *The Tulane Hullabaloo's* first student podcast in response to campus tensions over Israel's war in Gaza.

Emily Kask for NPR

Things are especially complicated at Tulane. About a third of students at the private, highly-selective school identify as Jewish, according to the university's Hillel chapter. That includes **Hannah Levitan**, The Hullabaloo's digital director. "I mean, people literally call it Jewlane," she says. The school doesn't track how many students identify as Muslim, or any other religion.

**Lindsay Ruhl**, the Hullabaloo's breaking news editor, says when Hamas attacked Israel on Oct. 7, killing about 1,200 people and taking more than 240 hostages, the campus appeared united in its grief. But as the days passed and Israel launched its air and ground campaign in Gaza — that's since killed more than 20,000 Palestinians, according to the Health Ministry in Gaza — Ruhl says things fractured. "It was good to see everyone come together," she says of the unity following Oct. 7. "But looking at it now, it's a different issue."

## A Hullabaloo podcast puts students with different opinions side-by-side

Ruhl and Levitan say student opinions on the conflict vary widely. And not everyone at the rally was there for the same reason — even if it seemed like they had picked a side. "There are people who are standing on the pro-Israel side against Hamas or against antisemitism," Levitan says. "Or they're standing on the pro-Israel side because they support [Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu. You don't know that unless you speak with them."

Which is exactly what she and Ruhl did on both sides of the protest. "We talked to a guy who was sobbing," Ruhl says. "I almost cried interviewing people on both sides."

Those emotions came through in the recordings Ruhl and Levitan made of their interviews, and they wanted to do more with the sound they'd captured.

"It became apparent as we were going through them, that these are things that you need to hear because the emotion is something that you cannot read in print," Levitan says.

So they decided to make the paper's first ever podcast, Breaking Waves > <https://tulanehullabaloo.com/category/podcast/>





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Israel-Hamas war AP News Quiz Holiday COVID spike Prague mass shooting Trump legal issues

## DISCOVER



### 'Pray for us': Eyewitnesses reveal first clues about a missing boat with up to 200 Rohingya refugees

It's a story of two boats in distress at sea: One was saved, the other vanished. The Associated Press has interviewed five Rohingya refugees who were rescued from the first boat and arrived in Indonesia, revealing a few clues about the fate of the other boat, now missing for weeks.

By KRISTEN GELINEAU, EDNA TARIGAN and REZA SAIFULLAH Updated 8:12 PM PST, December 22, 2023

PIDIE, Indonesia (AP) — Their screams and sobs could be heard from the ailing boat soon after it emerged into view amid the vastness of the Andaman Sea. Crowded on board were tiny babies and children, alongside mothers and fathers begging to be saved.

The passengers were ethnic Rohingya Muslims who had fled surging gang violence and rampant hunger in the squalid refugee camps of Bangladesh, only to find themselves adrift with a broken engine. For a moment, it appeared their salvation had arrived in the form of another boat carrying Rohingya refugees that had pulled up alongside them.

But those on board the other boat — itself overloaded and beginning to leak — knew if they allowed the distressed passengers onto their vessel, it would sink. And all would die.

They wanted to help, but they also wanted to live.

## 2023 YEAR IN REVIEW



### How well do you remember what happened in 2023? Take the AP news quiz

AP photos reveal intensity, insecurity and inequality in 2023 as world altered by climate change

Extreme weather, guilt tipping and, yes, Barbie: We're over you, 2023

Taylor Swift's new romance, debt-erasing gifts and the eclipse are among most joyous moments of 2023

A look at the more than 100 influential figures who died this year







**These kids want to go to school. The main obstacle? Paperwork**



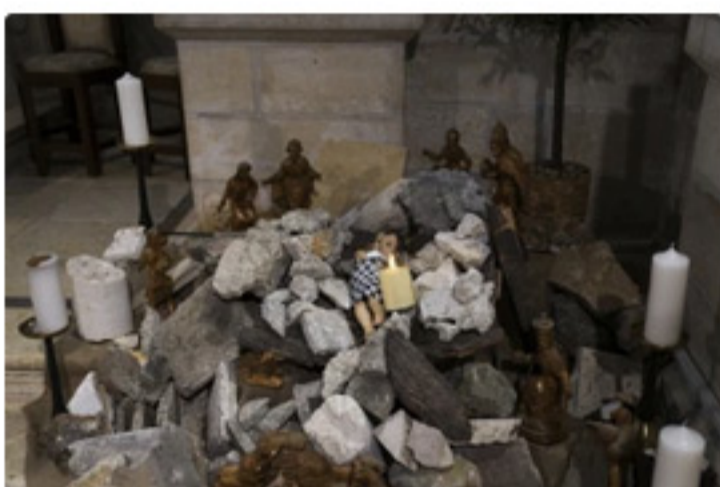
**Illegal crossings surge in remote areas as Congress and the White House weigh major asylum limits**



**Cocoa grown illegally in a Nigerian rainforest heads to companies that supply major chocolate makers**



**A serial killer set Detroit on edge. Police missteps over 15 years allowed him to roam free**



**Grieving and often overlooked, Palestinian Christians prepare for a somber Christmas amid war**



**More US auto buyers are turning to hybrids as sales of electric vehicles slow**



**Judge ordered release of people named in court documents related to Jeffrey Epstein, not his client list**



**Parents of children sickened by lead linked to tainted fruit pouches fear for kids' future**



**Biden pardons thousands convicted of marijuana charges on federal lands and in Washington**

Trump says he's eager to debate Biden in 2024, even if controversial commission plans events

Wisconsin Supreme Court orders new legislative maps in redistricting case brought



**Charlie Sheen's neighbor arrested after being accused of assaulting actor in Malibu home**

Michael Mann still has another gear. At 80, he's driving 'Ferrari'

What's streaming now: Bradley Cooper conducts, Lidia Bastianich cooks and Percy Jackson quests



**Florida State has sued the ACC, setting the stage for a fight to leave over revenue concerns**

Column: Florida State always seemed out of place in the ACC. Now the Seminoles want out

Key takeaways from AP's look at the emerging wave of sports construction in the US



**Authorities knew Maine shooter was a threat but felt confronting him was unsafe, video shows**

Israel and Hamas measures get a look as most US state legislatures meet for first time since Oct. 7

Congress launches an investigation into the Osprey program after the deadly crash in





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**UN approves watered-down resolution on aid to Gaza without call for suspension of hostilities**

These numbers show the staggering losses in the Israel-Hamas war as Gaza deaths surpass 20,000

Live updates | UN Security Council calls for Gaza aid, but stops short of demanding a cease-fire



**Federal Reserve's favored inflation gauge tumbles in November as prices continue to ease**

Biden signs an executive order aimed at financial facilitators of the Russian defense industry

Busiest holiday travel season in years is off to a smooth start with few airport delays

Stock market today: Wall Street ticks closer to record highs to cap its 8th straight winning week

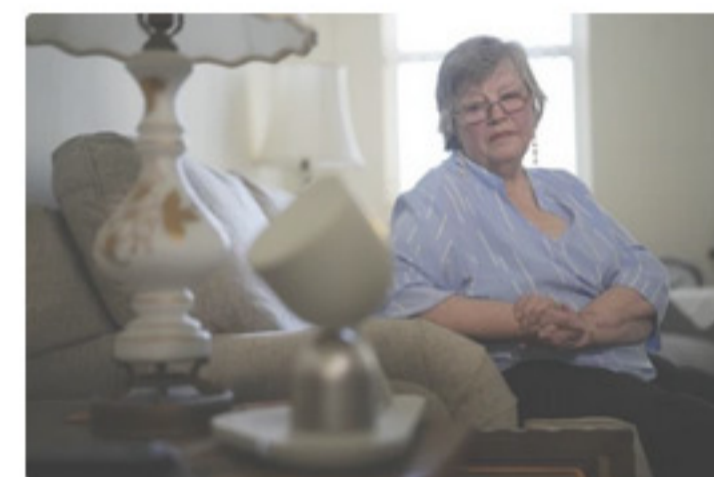


**Oregon appeals court finds the rules for the state's climate program are invalid**

International astronaut will be invited on future NASA moon landing

Thailand sends 3 orangutans rescued from illicit wildlife trade back to Indonesia

Jeff Bezos' rocket company launches experiments in first flight since 2022 crash



**Chatty robot helps seniors fight loneliness through AI companionship**

Some Catholic bishops reject Pope's stance on blessings for same-sex couples. Others are confused

Cat-owner duo in Ohio shares amputee journey while helping others through animal therapy

Mexico's president is willing to help with border migrant crush but wants US to open talks with Cuba

The long-delayed vote in the 15-member council was 13-0 with the United States and Russia abstaining. The U.S. abstention avoided a third American veto of a Gaza resolution following Hamas' surprise Oct. 7 attacks inside Israel. Russia wanted the stronger language restored; the U.S. did not.



Local news >



kpbs

What's in San Diego's new 'Complete Streets' policy?



12 hours ago • Andrew Bowen

NBC San Diego

Last-minute holiday shoppers aim 'small' at San Diego businesses



5 hours ago • Shellye Leggett

If you're still looking for that last-minute holiday gift, you're not alone. Hundreds of San Diegans flooded the North Park area Friday looking for something extra special. Tori Choi said she's been so busy that she forgot to treat herself but found the perfect present at a small shop in North Park. "I bought a beautiful monarch hair clip for myself and an evil eye hair clip for a dear friend of mine," Choi said. **"I think it's very important to shop local,"** Choi said. The Better Business Bureau said about 60% of shoppers wait until the last week to buy holiday gifts.

The San Diego City Council this month adopted a **"Complete Streets"** policy that's meant to balance the needs of pedestrians, cyclists, transit riders and motorists when the city repaves and redesigns its streets. The policy is not written into the municipal code, meaning city staff are not required to follow it. But after pressure from bike activists, councilmembers inserted amendments to increase transparency around when staff determine a repaving project is exempt from the policy. "I know we need to maintain flexibility, but I do want to caution staff in overutilizing the exemption process," said Councilmember Kent Lee at the council's meeting on Dec. 11. "If we're serious about meeting our climate action goals, we need to be serious about implementing our policy aspirations as well." "As with any policy, we keep an eye on it and see how it's working and if communication is consistent with what we hope for it to be," Elo-Rivera said. The Complete Streets policy establishes a new mobility governance group that is meant to foster greater coordination between city departments. It's made up of the heads of five city departments: Engineering and Capital Projects, Sustainability and Mobility, Development Services, City Planning and Transportation. The governance group is tasked with reviewing possible exemptions to the policy and periodically reviewing its effectiveness. The version of the policy that was initially presented to the council allowed city staff to use design guidelines developed by the National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO), which can offer greater protection to cyclists than the city's conventional approach to bike lane design. But Councilmember Raul Campillo inserted language that doesn't just allow, but also encourages staff to maximize the protection for cyclists. Ultimately, Campillo said, he would like the level of protection built into bike lanes to be determined by a street's speed limit. Anar Salayev, executive director of BikeSD, said more consistent use of NACTO design guidelines could eventually lead to more curb-level bike lanes that are elevated from the street. "On the flip side, if we want to keep bicyclists on the same level as vehicles, then we could have more robust structures separating the two," Salayev added. "Rather than the flex posts that we have today, we could have thicker bollards or planters or even maybe trees that line the separation between cars and bicycles." While the Complete Streets policy is not legally binding, the city is also working on an update of its Street Design Manual that will be written into the municipal code. Salayev said even with the council's amendments, he's not convinced the Complete Streets policy will have a meaningful impact on preventing traffic deaths and building a less car-dependent city. "The optimistic part of me wants to say that it's a win, because now we have a Complete Streets policy whereas a couple of weeks ago we didn't," Salayev said. "The more cynical part says that it's nothing more than an incremental step, albeit in the right direction."

The Guardian

Russia warns US and Europe over reports Ukraine may get its seized assets



18 hours ago • Andrew Roth

Kremlin threatens 'serious consequences' if there is an unprecedented seizure of Russian assets held abroad

ALJAZEERA

US accuses Iran of being 'deeply involved' in Houthi attacks in Red Sea



10 hours ago

White House says Tehran is providing Yemeni rebel group with weapons and tactical intelligence.





# Ice rescue instructor captures footage of rare, once-in-a-decade ice window on Alaskan lake

@globalnews



RABBIT LAKE, ALASKA  
OCT. 26, 2023 Credit: Luc Mehl

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TEAL SWAN, International Speaker and Best-Selling Author is a survivor of severe childhood abuse. Today, having integrated her own harrowing life experience, she inspires millions of people around the world towards truth, authenticity, freedom, and joy. As a renowned author, speaker and social media star, she travels the world teaching self-development and teaching people how to transform their emotional, mental, physical and spiritual pain.

Teal Swan's worldwide following has given her the moniker "The Mirror." She has earned this moniker because "when you step in front of her, you see the truth of yourself and the truth of the universe".

Teal is ranked 15th on *The Watkins Most Spiritually Influential Living People* in 2023. >  
<https://www.watkinsmagazine.com/watkins-spiritual-100-list-for-2023>



# Teal Swan

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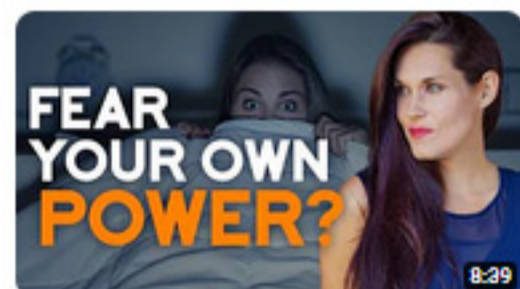
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Every issue presents the most anticipated book releases, articles and interviews world-renowned MBS authors. Every spring we publish a list of the 100 Most Spiritually Influential Living People to celebrate spiritual activists, writers and teachers of our time.

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### Watkins’ Spiritual 100 List for 2023 > January 31, 2023

- |                                      |                           |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 – Dalai Lama                       | 51 – Richard Bach         |
| 2 – Pope Francis                     | 52 – Vishen Lakhiani      |
| 3 – Greta Thunberg                   | 53 – Rob Bell             |
| 4 – Eckhart Tolle                    | 54 – Karen Armstrong      |
| 5 – Sadhguru (Jaggi Vasudev)         | 55 – Daniel Goleman       |
| 6 – Gwyneth Paltrow                  | 56 – Prem Rawat           |
| 7 – Russell Brand                    | 57 – Andrew Weil          |
| 8 – Oprah Winfrey                    | 58 – Gary Snyder          |
| 9 – David Lynch                      | 59 – Mooji                |
| 10 – Jane Goodall                    | 60 – Susan Cain           |
| 11 – Wim Hof                         | 61 – Byron Katie          |
| 12 – Paulo Coelho                    | 62 – Raymond Moody        |
| 13 – Alice Walker                    | 63 – Seyyed Hossein Nasr  |
| 14 – Jay Shetty                      | 64 – Brian Weiss          |
| 15 – Teal Swan                       | 65 – Don Miguel Ruiz      |
| 16 – Matthew Fox                     | 66 – Gregg Braden         |
| 17 – Deepak Chopra                   | 67 – Neale Donald Walsch  |
| 18 – Michael Pollan                  | 68 – Stanislav Grof       |
| 19 – Vandan Shiva                    | 69 – Daisaku Ikeda        |
| 20 – Robert Thurman                  | 70 – Jack Kornfield       |
| 21 – Esther Perel                    | 71 – Tara Brach           |
| 22 – Ruby Wax                        | 72 – Bruce H. Lipton      |
| 23 – Graham Hancock                  | 73 – Jack Canfield        |
| 24 – Justin Welby                    | 74 – Eben Alexander       |
| 25 – Arianna Huffington              | 75 – Matthieu Ricard      |
| 26 – Marianne Williamson             | 76 – Gabrielle Bernstein  |
| 27 – Uri Geller                      | 77 – Rupert Spira         |
| 28 – Sri Sri Ravi Shankar            | 78 – Drunvalo Melchizedek |
| 29 – Mark Manson                     | 79 – Ronald Hutton        |
| 30 – Amma – Mata Amritanandamayi     | 80 – Gary Lachman         |
| 31 – Bartholomew I of Constantinople | 81 – Steve Taylor         |
| 32 – Rhonda Byrne                    | 82 – Lee Carroll          |
| 33 – Richard Rohr                    | 83 – Elaine Pagels        |
| 34 – Robin Sharma                    | 84 – Daniel J. Siegel     |
| 35 – Esther Hicks                    | 85 – Sharon Salzberg      |
| 36 – Rowan Williamson                | 86 – Dan Millman          |
| 37 – Brené Brown                     | 87 – Anita Moorjani       |
| 38 – Jon Kabat-Zinn                  | 88 – Fritjof Capra        |
| 39 – Ken Wilber                      | 89 – Caroline Myss        |
| 40 – Hamza Yusuf                     | 90 – Yung Pueblo          |
| 41 – Rupert Sheldrake                | 91 – Morgan Daimler       |
| 42 – Vex King                        | 92 – Ajahn Brahm          |
| 43 – Bessel van der Kolk             | 93 – Sharon Kleinbaum     |
| 44 – Martin Seligman                 | 94 – David Deida          |
| 45 – Thomas Moore                    | 95 – Rachel Patterson     |
| 46 – Michael A. Singer               | 96 – Ervin Laszlo         |
| 47 – Iyanla Vanzant                  | 97 – Gary Zukav           |
| 48 – Edith Eger                      | 98 – Starhawk             |
| 49 – Alex Grey                       | 99 – Pema Chödrön         |
| 50 – Julia Cameron                   | 100 – Theresa Cheung      |



# The Cost of Bearing Witness

There are scores of Palestinian writers and photographers, many of whom have been killed, who are determined to make us see the horror of this genocide. They will vanquish the lies of the killers.



CHRIS HEDGES

DEC 23, 2023



## Bearing Witness - Mr. Fish

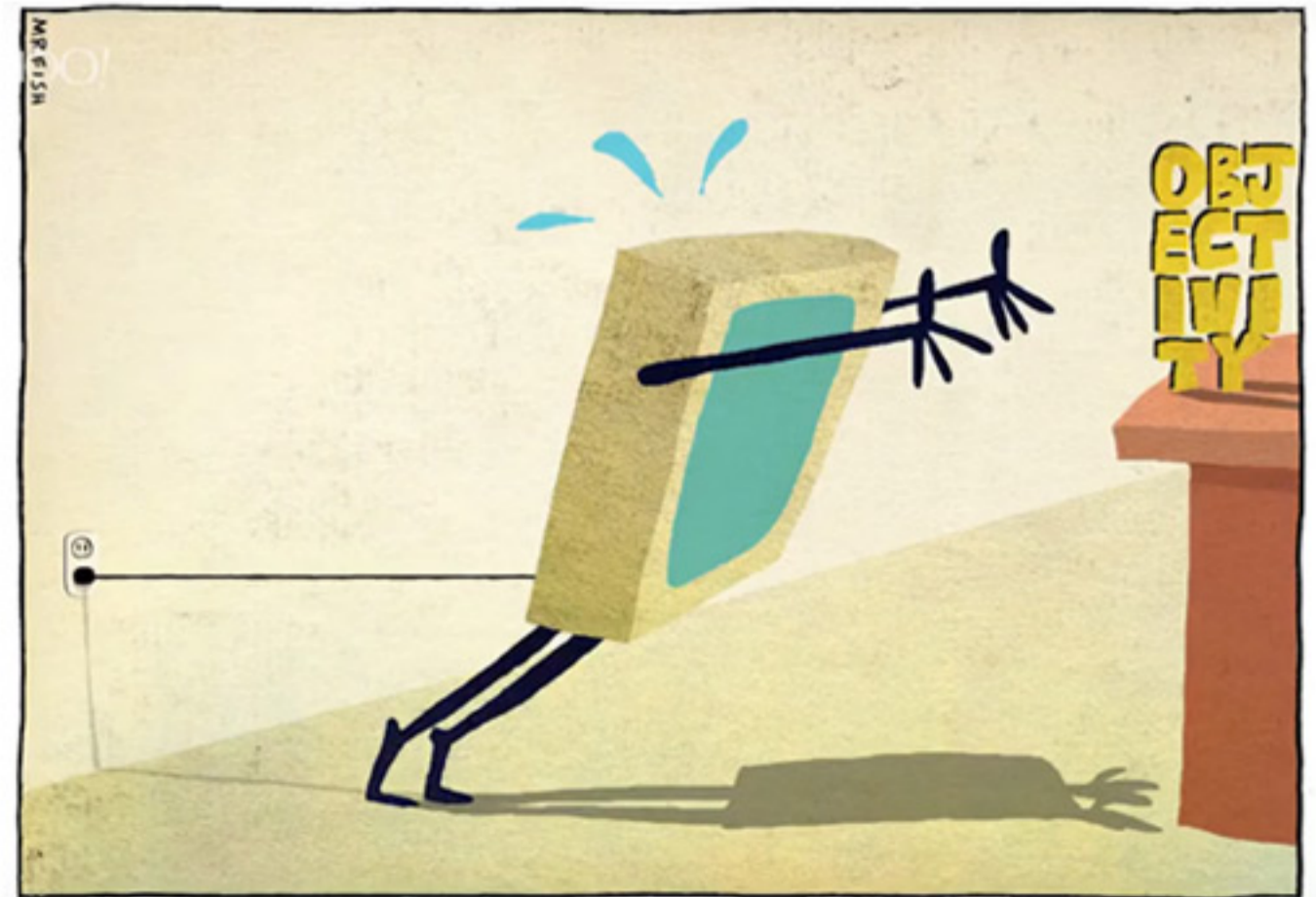
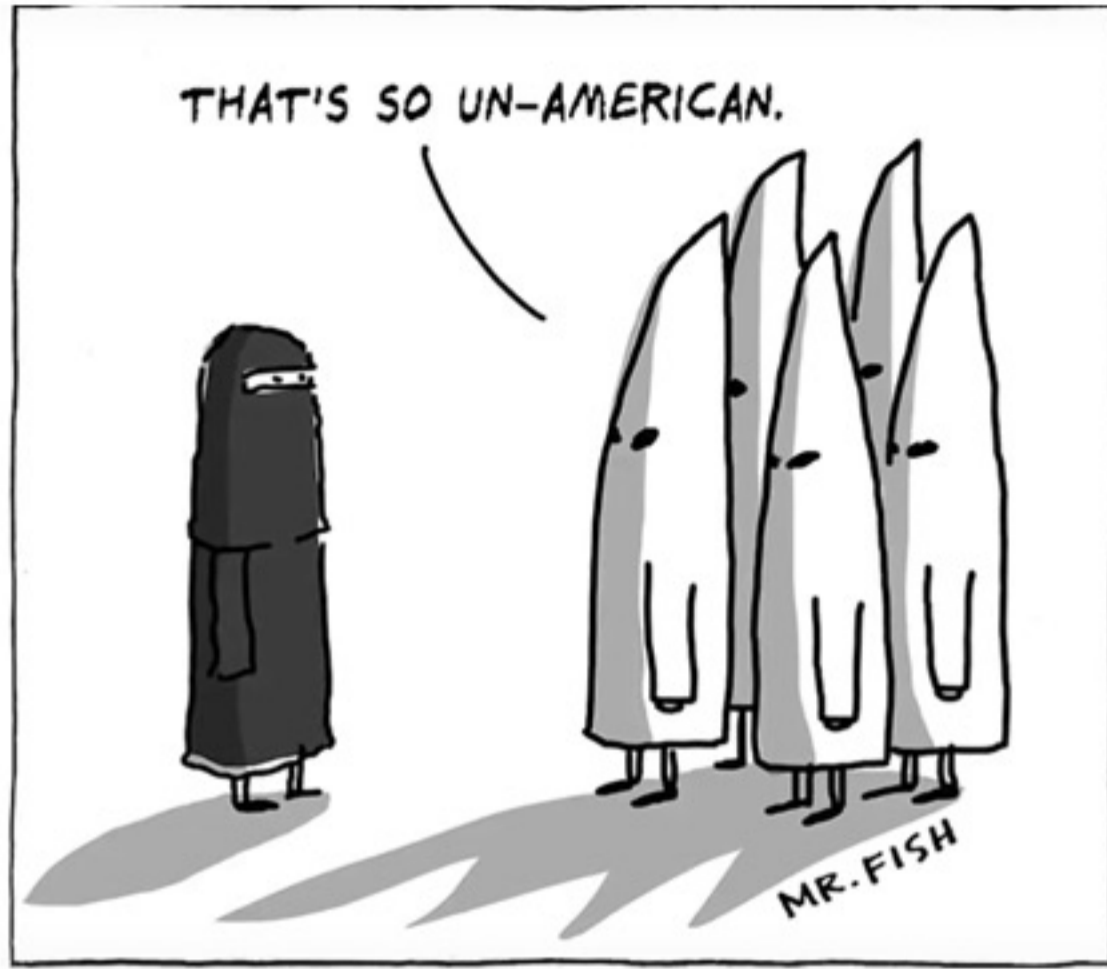
**Professor and poet Refaat Alareer** was killed, along with Refaat's brother, sister and her four children, in an airstrike on his sister's apartment building in Gaza on Dec. 7. The Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor said that Alareer was deliberately targeted, "surgically bombed out of the entire building." His killing came after weeks of "death threats that Refaat received online and by phone from Israeli accounts." He had moved to his sister's because of the threats.

Refaat, whose doctorate was on the metaphysical poet John Donne, wrote a poem in November, called "If I Must Die," which became his last will and testament. It has been translated into numerous languages. A reading of the poem by the actor Brian Cox has been viewed almost 30 million times.

If I must die,  
you must live  
to tell my story  
to sell my things  
to buy a piece of cloth  
and some strings,  
(make it white with a long tail)  
so that a child, somewhere in Gaza  
while looking heaven in the eye  
awaiting his dad who left in a blaze—  
and bid no one farewell  
not even to his flesh  
not even to himself—  
sees the kite, my kite you made,  
flying up above  
and thinks for a moment an angel is there  
bringing back love  
If I must die  
let it bring hope  
let it be a tale.



Cartoonist Mr. Fish: Aug 19, 2019





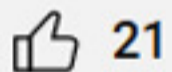


## Cartoonist Mr. Fish: 'I got death threats from the left ... [and] right'



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Shocking, offensive, truthful: These are all words that have been used to describe the work of controversial cartoonist Mr. Fish – aka Dwayne Booth. Fish, as he prefers to be called, is known for his bold imagery and variation of style, and a satirical sense of humor that pulls no punches. "I've been called a political cartoonist, but really I'm a son of a b\*\*\*h," Fish says. Aired on Oct 18, 2018

[Music]

0:00> To fish, "you're a swine motherfucker asshole. you probably don't like yourself, and you're a two-faced opportunist. you shit eater, cocksucker, bastard. In another country they will cut your hands off for the insult after insult of the president, you moron."

0:16 > so, I do get fan mail . . .

Cartoonist Mr. Fish: 'I got death threats from the left ... [and] right'





**Cartoonist Mr. Fish:** Aug 19, 2019

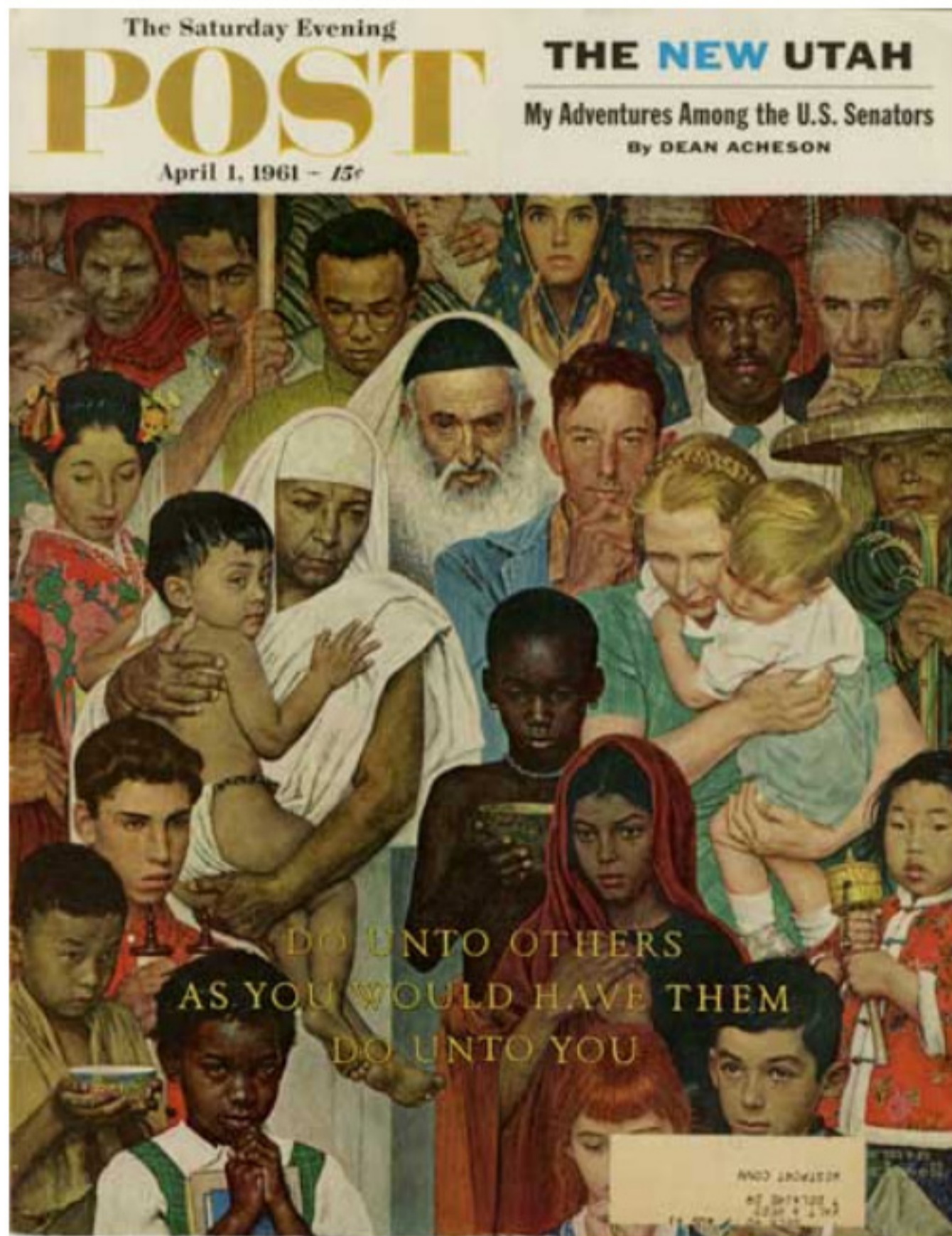
4:10 > the Norman Rockwell parody that I made, it's based on his triple self portrait. You know Norman Rockwell represents Americana, he represents, you know, a benign well-meaning wholesome America, which is a way to look at America if you have an uncritical mind. and I think that the uncritical mind, when it refuses to look at the endemic racism that's in this country, for me, it's an it's an absolute accurate depiction of what goes on when it comes to people claiming from themselves what real America is.





# Norman Rockwell and Race: Complicating Rockwell's Legacy

By Washington University Libraries | November 23, 2016



With a career that spanned nearly six decades, Norman Rockwell was perfectly situated to witness perhaps the most rapidly changing era in American history. Rockwell's changing depictions of race throughout his career directly mirror the larger cultural shifts that were happening at the time. Therefore, instead of reducing Rockwell to just one period of his career, it would be more accurate to view Rockwell as a symbol of 20th century American racial progress.

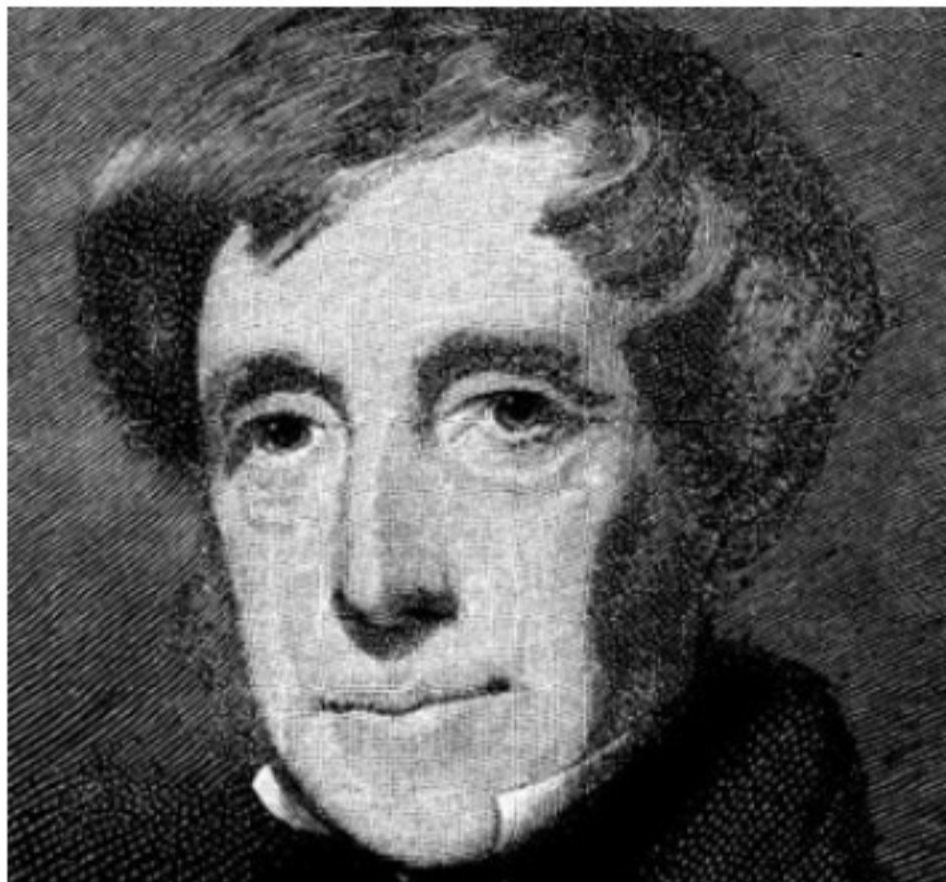


*The Problem We All Live With* was painted in response to the violent reaction to Ruby Bridge's integration of her New Orleans elementary school in 1960.



*New Kids in the Neighborhood*





*Engraving of Clement C. Moore by J. W. Evans*

**Clement Clarke Moore** [1779–1863] was born in New York City, the son of the Reverend Benjamin Moore and Charity Clarke Moore. An only child, Clement was capably tutored at home by his father until he entered Columbia College; according to his biographer, Samuel White Patterson, he graduated in 1798 "at the head of his class, as his father had, thirty years earlier." In 1801 he earned his MA from Columbia University; he was awarded an LLD in 1829. In 1813 Clement Moore married 19-year-old Catharine Elizabeth Taylor, with whom he eventually had nine children. A very religious man, he gave a large portion of the land that he had inherited, part of his Chelsea estate and now called Chelsea Square, to the General Theological Seminary, where he was a professor of oriental and Greek literature from 1823 until he retired in 1850. At his retirement he purchased a house in Newport, Rhode Island, where he died on July 10, 1863.

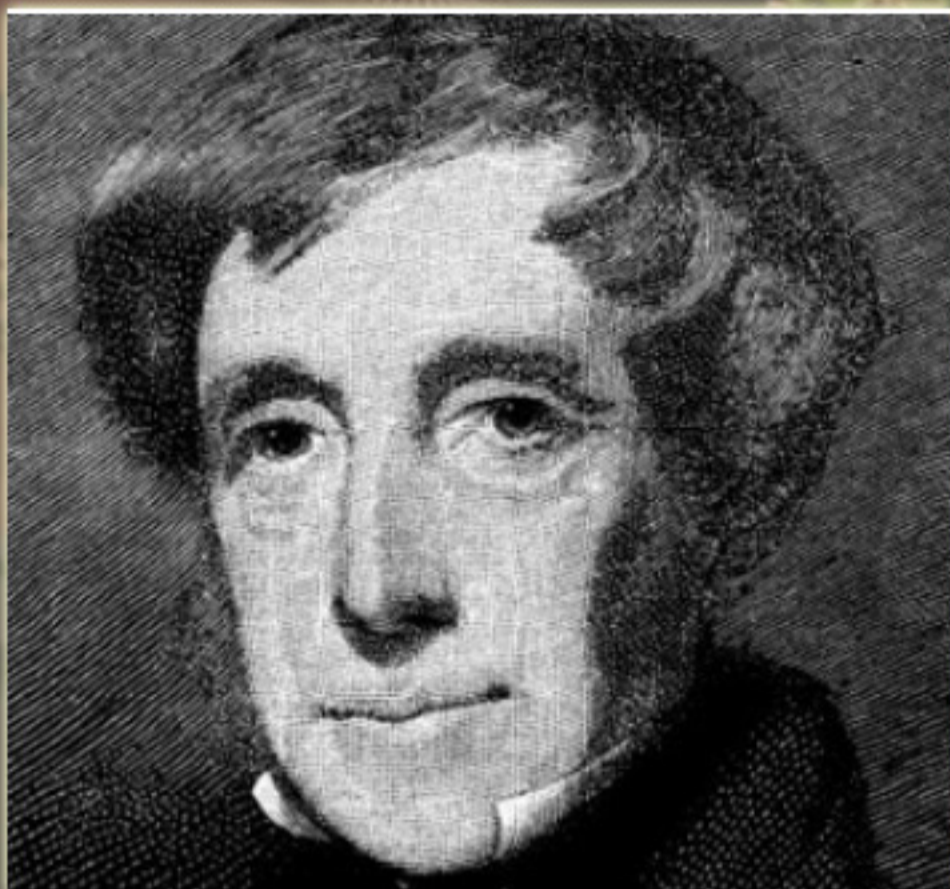
During his lifetime Moore wrote on a variety of subjects. He produced a two-volume *A Compendious Lexicon of the Hebrew Language* (1809), a translation from the French of *A Complete Treatise on Merinos and Other Sheep* (1811), and the historical biography *George Castriot, Surnamed Scanderbeg, King of Albania* (1850). Throughout his life he also wrote poetry, which was published in the *Portfolio* and similar periodicals.

Moore claimed to have been the author of "A Visit from St. Nicholas," asserting that he wrote the poem for his own children and recited it to them on Christmas Eve 1822. After it was published anonymously the following year, it became increasingly popular, appearing in newspapers, school readers, other anthologies, and in many different single editions. The *New-York Book of Poetry* (1837), an anthology of works by New York poets, contained some written by Moore, including "A Visit from St. Nicholas," although "Anonymous" was still listed as the author. Not until 1844, when Moore's collection *Poems* was published, was "A Visit from St. Nicholas" acknowledged in print as having been written by Clement C. Moore, LLD. Because the poem was published anonymously and became very popular, other people tried to claim authorship. Authorship is typically attributed now to Major Henry Livingston, Jr., whose great-grandson spent many years trying to establish Major Livingston as the author. Livingston had also written verses for his children, but he made no written mention of "A Visit from St. Nicholas" during his lifetime, nor had his friends heard of his connection with the verses. They were said to have been published in a Poughkeepsie newspaper long before they appeared in the *Troy Sentinel*, but no copies of the paper containing the poem have ever turned up. Several magazine and newspaper articles appeared, especially during the 1940s, questioning the authorship, but scholars today give the credit to Livingston.

### ***A Visit from St. Nicholas*** by Clement Clarke Moore

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house  
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;  
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,  
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;  
The children were nestled all snug in their beds;  
While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads;  
And mamma in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap,  
Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap,  
When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,  
I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter.  
Away to the window I flew like a flash,  
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.  
The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow,  
Gave a lustre of midday to objects below,  
When what to my wondering eyes did appear,  
But a miniature sleigh and eight tiny rein-deer,  
With a little old driver so lively and quick,  
I knew in a moment he must be St. Nick.  
More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,  
And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name:  
"Now, Dasher! now, Dancer! now Prancer and Vixen!  
On, Comet! on, Cupid! on, Donder and Blitzen!  
To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall!  
Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!"  
As leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,  
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky;  
So up to the housetop the coursers they flew  
With the sleigh full of toys, and St. Nicholas too—  
And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof  
The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.  
As I drew in my head, and was turning around,  
Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.  
He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot,  
And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot;  
A bundle of toys he had flung on his back,  
And he looked like a pedler just opening his pack.  
His eyes—how they twinkled! his dimples, how merry!  
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!  
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,  
And the beard on his chin was as white as the snow;  
The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,  
And the smoke, it encircled his head like a wreath;  
He had a broad face and a little round belly  
That shook when he laughed, like a bowl full of jelly.  
He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,  
And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself;  
A wink of his eye and a twist of his head  
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread;  
He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,  
And filled all the stockings; then turned with a jerk,  
And laying his finger aside of his nose,  
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose;  
He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,  
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle—  
But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight—





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### The Chris Hedges Report: Noam Chomsky, Pt 1

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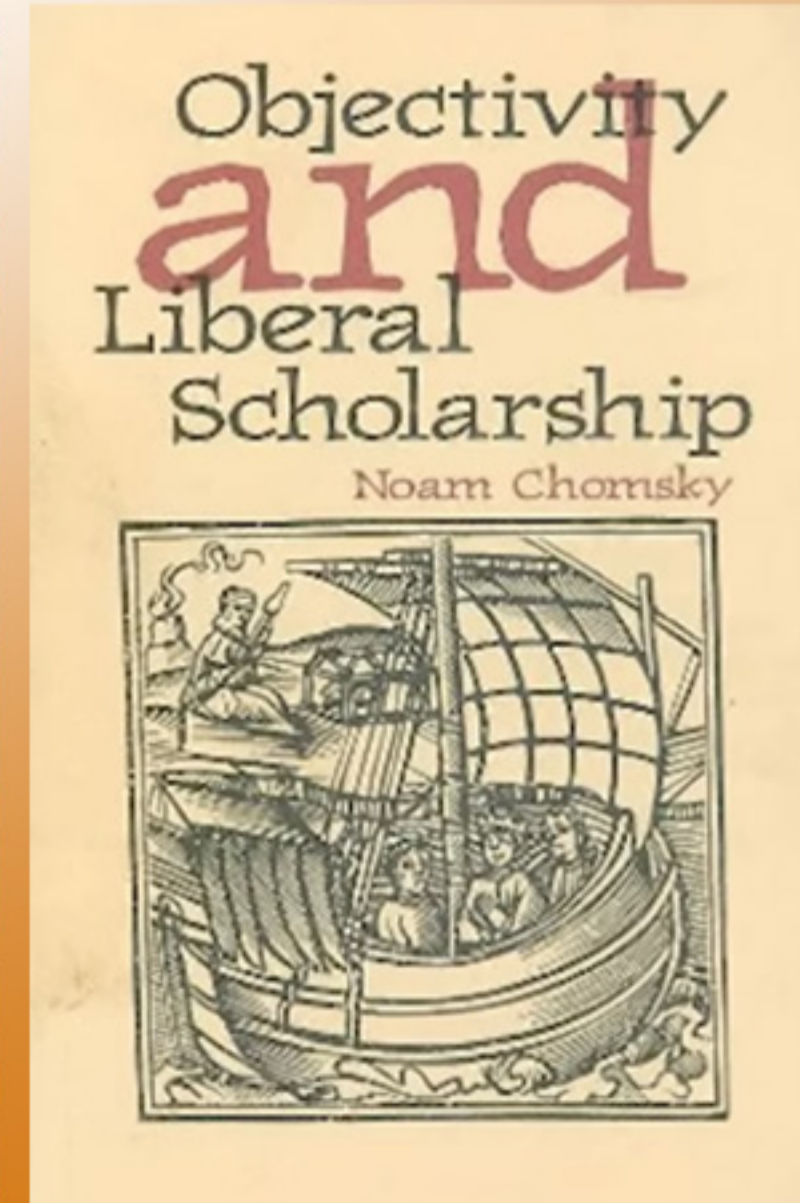
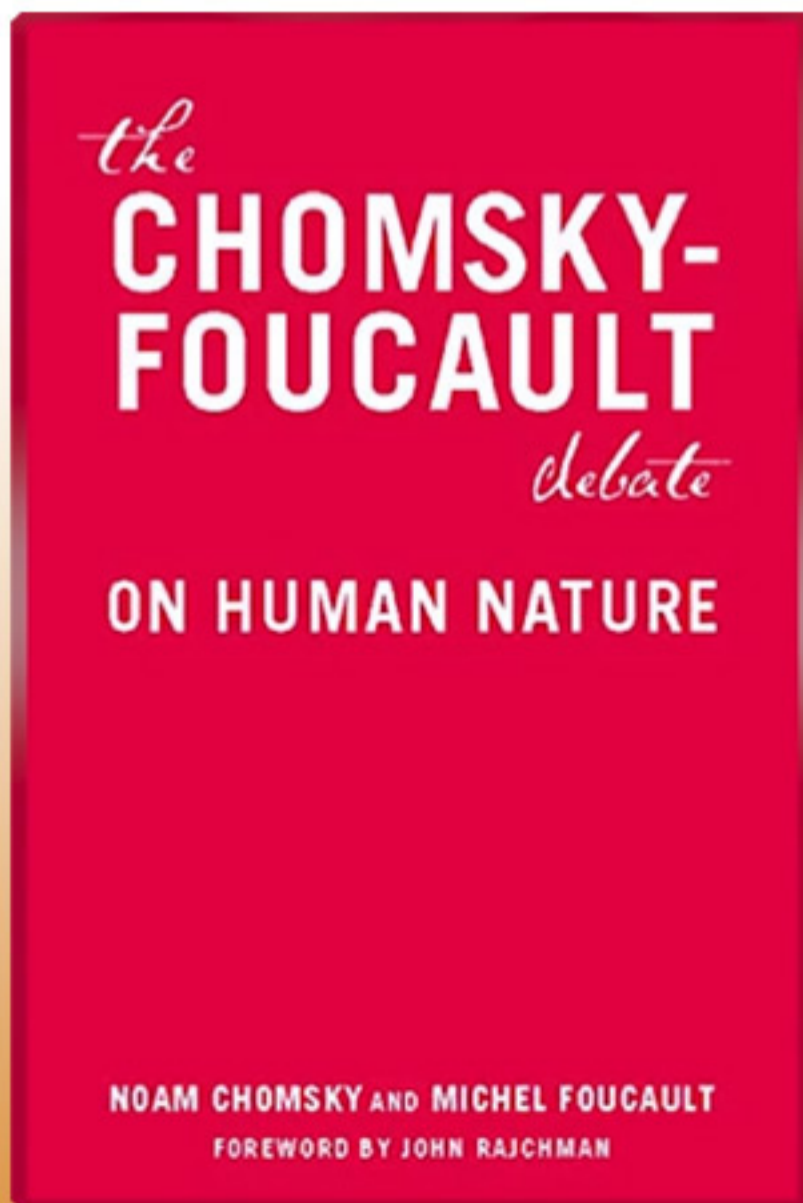
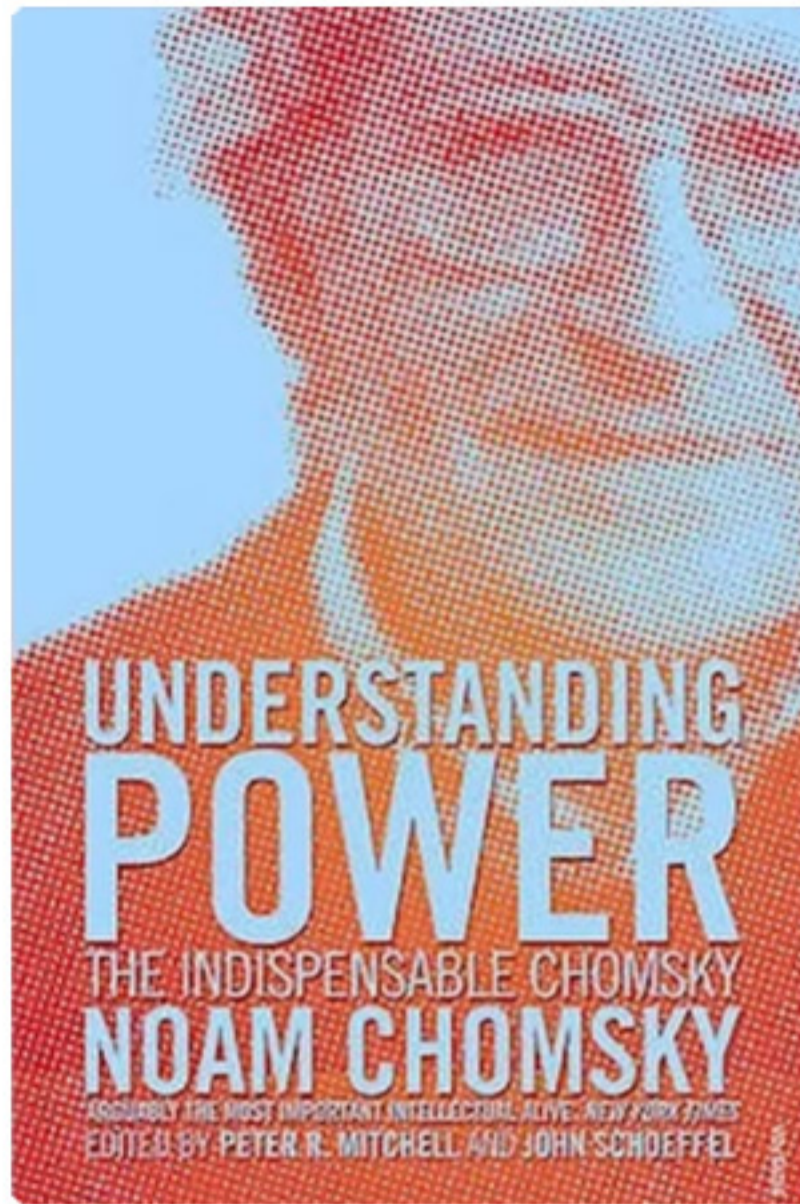
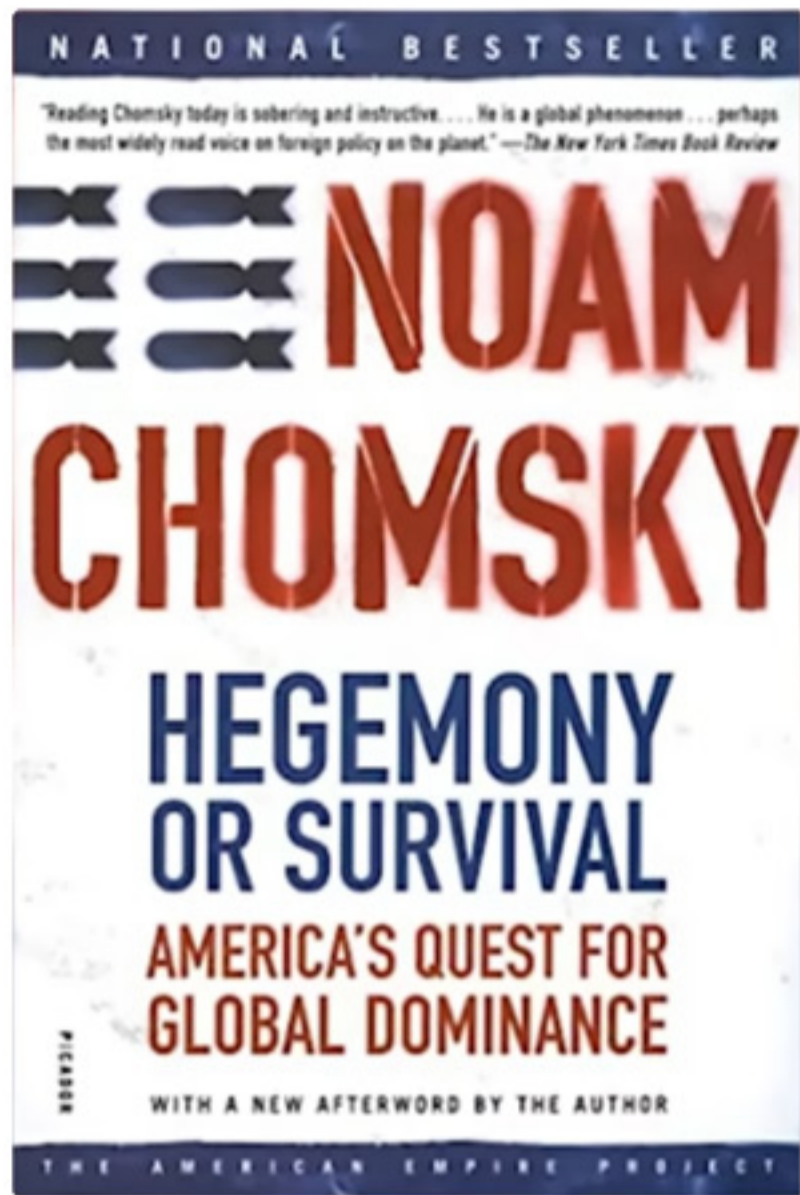
116,119 views Premiered Oct 28, 2022 [The Chris Hedges Report](#)

World-renowned linguist, philosopher, cognitive scientist, essayist, and political activist Noam Chomsky returns to The Chris Hedges Report to continue their discussion on contemporary fascism, the war in Ukraine, and the tasks of the left in a time of ecological and political crisis. You can watch the first part of this two-part interview here: [The Chris Hedges Report: Noam Chomsky...](#)

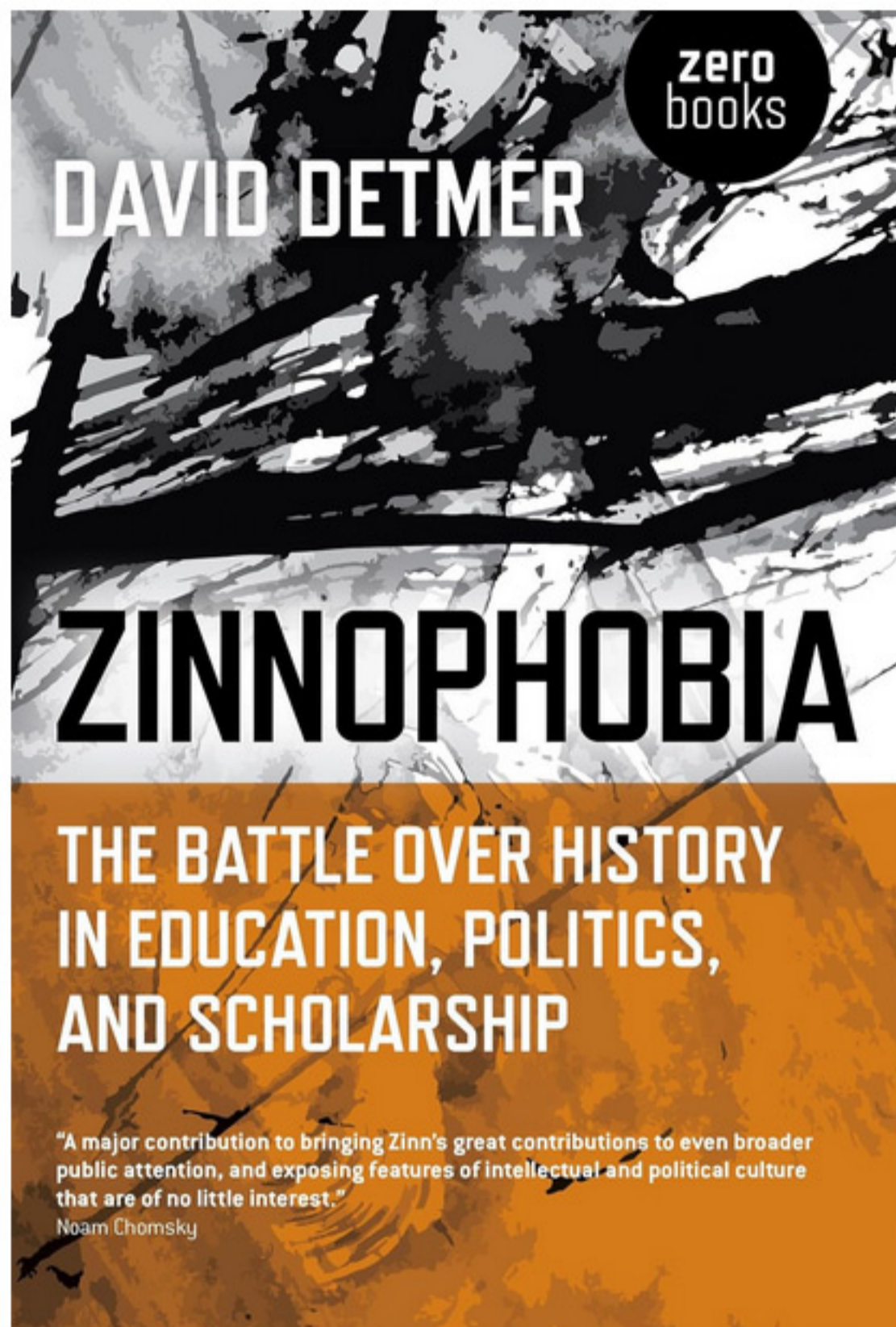
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**Noam Chomsky** is the author of more than 150 books on topics that include:







## Zinnophobia: The Battle Over History in Education, Politics, and Scholarship Paperback – September 28, 2018



by [David Detmer](#) (Author)

Zinnophobia offers an extended defense of the work of radical historian Howard Zinn, author of the bestselling *A People's History of the United States*, against his many critics. It includes a discussion of the attempt to ban Zinn's book from Indiana classrooms; a brief summary of Zinn's life and work; an analysis of Zinn's theorizing about bias and objectivity in history; and a detailed response to twenty-five of Zinn's most hostile critics, many of whom are (or were) eminent historians. 'A major contribution to bringing Zinn's great contributions to even broader public attention, and exposing features of intellectual and political culture that are of no little interest.' Noam Chomsky



# It's weird to be a grown-up orphan. It forced my siblings and me to reckon with faith

DECEMBER 24, 2023 · 6:00 AM ET



Rachel Martin



This is me with my parents at my grad school graduation in the Spring of 2004.

Two years ago, my dad was in the ICU at a hospital in Salt Lake City. He'd been transferred there from a hospital in my hometown of Idaho Falls, Idaho, because his ruptured aorta demanded more experienced surgeons. My brother and sister and I flew in to be with him, but after a few days, the signs were trending positively, and he looked at us and deadpanned, "What are you still doing here? I'm fine! Go!" So we all kissed him on the cheek and flew back to our respective homes. He died a couple weeks later. Our dad, Stephen, was the parent who was supposed to stick around for a while. It's not like he was young. He was 74. That's a pretty good life. But he was in such good shape. He lifted weights most days and had no serious health issues, and so when he died it felt like we had been robbed again. Our mom, Linda, died of cancer in 2009. She was just 60 years old. She died before I met my husband. She never got to meet our kids. It felt very much like a life interrupted, cut way too short by a disease that made no sense in a woman who was such a life force herself. I had convinced myself that because God, or the universe or whatever, had taken away Mom so early, we were definitely going to get to hang out with Dad until he was shuffling around his house like the old man he was supposed to become. **It didn't work out that way.** Being a grown-up orphan is weird. I know I'm supposed to focus on how lucky I was to have my parents for as long as I did. But I still feel ripped off when my 9-year-old gets a hit in his little league game and I want to call my dad and give him the play-by-play. Or when my 11-year-old busts out in a song and dance in the kitchen, and I so desperately want to send a video to my mom because she would just love it – and him – so much. But it's deeper than that. After my dad died I felt an existential void. He and my mom both had rich and textured spiritual lives. With both of them gone, I realized I had never built that for myself. And I was consumed with questions about whether I had to in order to lead a meaningful, happy life. Last spring, I set out to try to answer that question by talking to a lot of different people who were swimming around in the same murky existential waters, but had emerged with some kind of clarity. One of the first conversations I recorded for this series was with my siblings, Abigail and Paul. I wanted to ask them direct questions about what they believe and how that did, or did not, help them navigate their own grief. We put that conversation in the vault for a while because it was so personal. But now, during the holidays, it feels OK to let it out into the world. I'm not in the same emotional place as I was eight months ago. I'm far more comfortable in my not-knowing-ness. I am finding meaning in my work and my community and my family in new ways. I don't feel empty anymore. But this conversation captures where I was at a particular point in time – my brother and sister too. And a level of honesty I don't think the three of us had shared before. **Rachel:** My first question, I mean, I know the answer to these questions, some of them, but can each of you try to define Mom and Dad's spirituality? **Abigail:** Dad always seemed very pragmatic about spirituality. Like, he was all about scripture. Not that he was taking scripture literally, but he was really steadfast in what he believed. And yes, he would be open to conversations and challenges, but Mom morphed. When we were young, I didn't perceive Mom as this like hardcore Christian. **Rachel:** She was a dabbler. **Abigail:** Yeah. Past lives...

**Rachel:** Right! Reincarnation, some meditation. **Abigail:** And then when she got sick, everything changed. And she became more in line with what Dad believed. **Paul:** I agree that Dad had maybe a more rigid view. He came from the Presbyterian tradition and Baptist before that. He had studied all of these other religions, but he studied them at arm's length. Whereas when Mom studied the other religions, she was open to the possibility that there were shared values, shared connections and philosophies that connected her spirituality to people of other faiths. **Rachel:** Yeah. Like when Dad would study other stuff, it was more like an intellectual exercise. Whereas Mom was studying with a practitioner's eye and heart. Like maybe she was going to incorporate that stuff into her own faith. **Paul:** Yeah. **Rachel:** So do you believe in God? **Paul:** I do. Yeah. I don't believe in a God in the sky pointing his finger like on the Sistine Chapel. I think the death of Mom and Dad made me go through a process of understanding, or made me think critically about what I do believe, you know, because it's no longer a theoretical thing. Of course I thought about it when we lost all our grandparents, but with Mom and Dad, that's every day you're thinking about, where are they, you know? What happened to them? So you have to process it differently. It did take some adaptation. I came to realize that when you think about what God is, it's a spark, it's the thing we all share that makes us unique. I think that resonates through a lot of different religions, and I think there's a lot of commonality to that concept. And so my belief of God is born of the Christian tradition, but certainly encompasses the idea that energy is special and it's in all of us and we all share it. **Rachel:** Do you think that it took Mom and Dad dying for you to be able to develop language around what you just said? To come to that conclusion about what God is to you? **Paul:** I think it was always there because we had been taught about other religions and other ideas. We'd never been told that other religions are wrong, that wasn't part of our upbringing. So it was that process of thinking critically about what I believed, and that was spurred by their deaths. **Rachel:** Abi, do you believe in God? **Abigail:** I did. I was so angry after Mom died. Towards the end, there was so much discussion about God and her faith and Dad's faith in the afterlife, and I still really struggle with understanding how someone so good could be taken from us. Going back to something that Paul was saying is that I believe in energy, because there are too many coincidences that occur for there not to be some power of some sort. I've had some really lovely happenstances with birds. And as we know, birds were Mom's thing. **Rachel:** She felt really connected to birds, seagulls in particular. **Abigail:** And so, I've had circumstances where I'm like, maybe there is a god. Maybe there is something. But I completely shut it down and cut it off when Mom died. And then when Dad died, it felt like we were going through the motions. Using the language that he had, what we grew up with, those traditions. Prayer is not something that happens in my life and sometimes I think I should pray because it's what we were taught we should do. But yeah, there's a lot of anger and sadness about it because I feel like I am missing something because I don't have that spirituality – I don't know if that's the right word. But God is not something that's present in my life. And I feel like there's a hole. **Rachel:** Yeah. I get that. Part of how I've been describing this, it's like Mom and Dad built this scaffolding, like spiritual scaffolding. They gave us the foundation, built like the exterior beams of what a spiritual life could look like. And then it was sort of up to us to build the rest of our spiritual home. And I feel like I never really got around to that part. Because they had such rich faith and strong religion, I felt like I didn't really have to do any of that work because it felt like it was there for me just whenever I needed a dose of it or something. I could retreat and I could take shelter in their faith. And then bail. So then when they died, I feel like all that's left is the scaffolding of it and it feels unsteady and empty. There's nothing there and I feel compelled to fill it up, but I'm not really sure how because the faith that we were raised in doesn't quite feel like it gives me everything that I'm looking for. Does any of that make sense to you or does any of that ring true to you? **Abigail:** Yes. **Paul:** Yeah, so the idea that we were beneficiaries or, like, the box was sort of checked by Mom and Dad, having that tent for us to be inside of, that resonates. You know, at some point it's up to you, cause it has to be a personal thing, right? It's abrupt for us to have a change when our home base is no longer there. But that doesn't mean it has to fulfill everything either. I also don't think it's bad or awful that we don't have our tent fully built out as soon as Mom and Dad are gone, because it's supposed to be an ongoing thing for our whole lives. And so we can always seek to work on our own tent. **Rachel:** Thank you for extending the metaphor. [laughs] **Paul:** It's a good metaphor. I like it. **Rachel:** Remember when Mom was sick, she started planting this idea in our minds that she was going to live in the wind, right? Which is why she gave us these beautiful wind chimes. And I've got mine hanging up and the wind will blow and I will think about her. And that's a useful story, you know, for thinking about what happens when the people we love aren't here anymore. That's what religion does in large part for people, it helps us make sense of that question. How have each of you thought about that? Do you believe in an afterlife? **Paul:** Well, you know, dust to dust. I think the energy goes back into the universe, like the law of thermodynamics. You can't create or destroy energy. So, like, I do believe in an afterlife, but I don't think it's one where we have a house and it's populated with all our dogs and friends and family and toys that we want and stuff like that. It's not something that we can really conceive of. I don't try to define what the afterlife is too much. I think there's limitations on our ability there. **Rachel:** Abi? **Abigail:** I want to. I want to believe that there's an afterlife. But the answer would be no. I think there's something. There's energy. What that is, I don't know, but it certainly is not that Mom is in heaven with Dad and our grandparents and they're having a dinner party. That logically doesn't make any sense to me. What about you? **Rachel:** Oh, me? I don't know. I think a lot of religious inquiry comes out of people trying to make sense of death and dying and the scariness of it and the uncertainty of it. And also parenting, explaining that stuff to your kids, you know? It's like, do I really tell them that there's, like, this place called heaven where Ima and Papa are? **Paul:** I mean, you think about whether people have gravesites or they are cremated and how we handle remains. A lot of that is for the survivors, right? And so you can help the survivors process the way they need to be able to do it. And I feel like, being the ones left behind, the concept of heaven or hell or an afterlife is one for the survivors again. And if we as a survivor need that, we have all of those memories and those things that our parents gave to us, which we're lucky to have, by the way. I mean, we had real lives with our parents. **Rachel:** Yeah. **Paul:** We can manifest them ourselves and have them with us when we want to. **Rachel:** I like that idea.

**Paul:** *We carry heaven in our pocket.*

**Rachel:** What? Did you just come up with that? **Paul:** I did. **Abigail:** That's good, Paul.

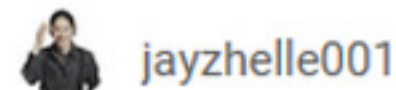
**Rachel:** That's so good! Hurry, write it down! [laughs]





## Meryl Streep powerful speech at the Golden Globes 2017

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"Disrespect invites disrespect. Violence incites violence. When the powerful use their position to bully others, we all lose. It was that moment when the person asking to sit in the most respected seat in our country imitated a disabled reporter. Someone he out-ranked in privilege, power and the capacity to fight back. It kind of broke my heart when I saw it. And I still can't get it out of my head, because it wasn't in a movie, it was real life. And this instinct to humiliate, when it's modelled by someone in the public platform, by someone powerful, it filters down into everybody's life, because it kind of gives permission for other people to do the same thing."

Streep and Gummer have been protectively private about their relationship. In 2002, the "Devil Wears Prada" actress told Vogue the secret to her long-lasting marriage is "goodwill and willingness to bend – and to shut up every once in a while."

*"There's no road map on how to raise a family: It's always an enormous negotiation," she said. "But I have a holistic need to work and to have huge ties of love in my life. I can't imagine eschewing one for the other."*

Streep would later make a rare public statement about her marriage, thanking Gummer in her acceptance speech at the 2012 Academy Awards for best actress for her role as British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in "The Iron Lady."

*"First, I'm going to thank Don because when you thank your husband at the end of the speech, they play him out with the music, and I want him to know that everything I value most in our lives, you've given me," she said.*

In 2023, it was reported that Streep and Gummer had been separated for more than six years. The couple married in 1978.

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/entertainment/celebrities/2023/10/22/meryl-streep-husband-don-gummer-separation/71281437007/>



*A 26-year-old Meryl Streep, who had yet to make her film debut, was asked by the son of legendary producer Dino De Laurentiis to audition for his father's remake of King Kong.*

**Meryl Streep: 0:21 >** The audition with Dino De Laurentiis senior. . . yes, yes, yes, . . . well that was for King Kong, the girl part. I walked into this amazing office, and the son was sitting there, he had seen me in a play and was very excited he had brought in, . . . this new actress. And the father said to his son in Italian, "Perché mi porti questa cosa brutta?" I understand Italian, "Why do you bring me this ugly thing?"

Very sobering. So I said to him, "Ma capisco quello che dici. Mi dispiace di no abbastanza bello . . . but I understand what you're saying. I'm sorry I'm not beautiful enough to be in **King Kong!**"



The **Sally Wainwright** show that has had the biggest impact on the Halifax area is **Gentleman Jack**; a period drama starring Suranne Jones as the secret lesbian diarist Anne Lister. Set and filmed in Shibden Hall near Halifax, it has been coined a “lesbian pilgrimage” and has genuinely changed many women’s lives. “Women come from all over the world now for the Anne Lister weekend,” says Wainwright. “People from 17 countries came last time.” There was global outcry when HBO cancelled the show after two series, including a crowdfunded Times Square billboard calling to save it. One way or another, Wainwright is adamant about telling Lister’s story to the end. “HBO don’t care about that; that we’ve raised so much awareness for an underserved community. It saddens me that they don’t see what good it’s done in the world,” she says. Reasons for cancellation have never been made clear to Wainwright, but low viewing figures in the US have been widely cited. “We’ve heard things to do with tax, that they decided not to back a certain number of shows and ours fell into that category.” This reliance on big US money, to boost BBC budgets, concerns her. It’s a bit worrying, she says, that it “wasn’t about the quality of the show”.

it was with BBC drama **Last Tango in Halifax** – a story based on her mother’s experience of reconnecting with an old flame when she was in her 70s – that Wainwright first struck gold (“I’ve never said there won’t be any more; if there was any interest, I wouldn’t say no”). She has always credited her mum for being her biggest inspiration. Her mum had been “thrilled” about Anne Reid playing Celia, the character she inspired. “Like Celia, mum called a spade a spade. She was so proud of Last Tango because it was such a beautiful story,” Wainwright once said. But at the start of the year, Wainwright announced that her mum had died just before Christmas, adding: “I wouldn’t have had a career without her.”

“She had dementia for the last six years,” she says quietly, explaining that her mum loved the first series of Happy Valley, but started to get ill around the time of the second series. “It was one of the great sadnesses for me when she couldn’t watch my shows any more and I couldn’t share them with her.”



📷 Sophie Rundle and Suranne Jones in Gentleman Jack.



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ismo\_Leikola



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## ISMO | Sleeping Around

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**Ismo Mikael Leikola** (born 22 January 1979), sometimes known professionally as ISMO, is a Finnish stand-up comedian, musician, author, screenwriter, and YouTuber. Leikola made his United States debut in 2014, when he won "The Funniest Person in the World" competition organized by the comedy club Laugh Factory. In 2015, he made comedy series ISMO for Finnish television and moved to the United States. He gained more recognition after his appearance on the Conan talk show in 2018 and has since toured internationally. He has a YouTube channel with over 300,000 subscribers.





Jim Mone/AP

WEATHER

Christmas Day storm forecast to bring blizzard conditions to Plains and Midwest



Pavel Golovkin/AP

WORLD

Missing Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny is located in an Arctic penal colony



Christophe Ena/AP

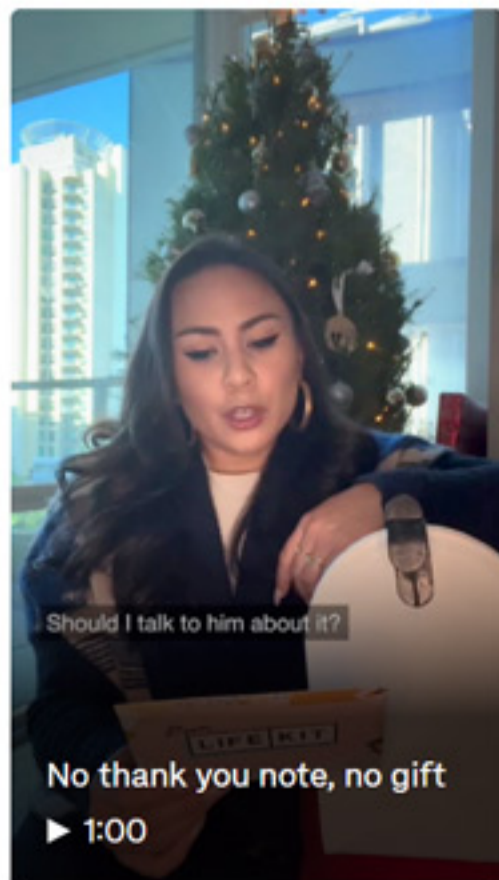
WORLD

A plane stuck for days in France for a human trafficking investigation is leaving



Therapy animals greet holiday animals at airport

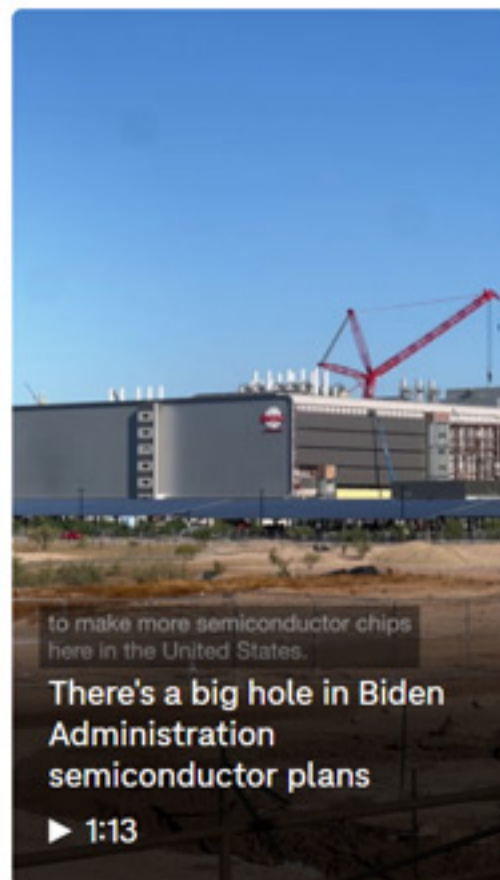
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Should I talk to him about it?

No thank you note, no gift

1:00



to make more semiconductor chips here in the United States.

There's a big hole in Biden Administration semiconductor plans

1:13

MOSCOW — Associates of imprisoned Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny said Monday that he has been located at a prison colony above the Arctic Circle nearly three weeks after contact with him was lost. Navalny, the most prominent foe of Russian President Vladimir Putin, is serving a 19-year sentence on charges of extremism. He had been imprisoned in the Vladimir region of central Russia, about 230 kilometers (140 miles) east of Moscow, but his lawyers said they had not been able to reach him since Dec. 6. His spokesperson, Kira Yarmysh, said on X, formerly Twitter, that he was located in a prison colony in the town of Kharp, in the Yamalo-Nenetsk region about 1,900 kilometers (1,200 miles) northeast of Moscow. The region is notorious for long and severe winters; the town is near Vorkuta, whose coal mines were among the harshest of the Soviet Gulag prison-camp system. "It is almost impossible to get to this colony; it is almost impossible to even send letters there. This is the highest possible level of isolation from the world," Navalny's chief strategist, Leonid Volkov, said on X.





With major elections coming up in the U.S. and India among other countries, AI's and social media's role in misinformation will continue to be front and center for social media watchers.

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Israel-Hamas war Manchester United sale Bethlehem Christmas day store openings NFL

# DISCOVER



## The year of social media soul-searching: Twitter dies, X and Threads are born and AI gets personal

We lost Twitter and got X. We tried out Bluesky and Mastodon (well, some of us did). We fretted about AI bots and teen mental health.



Afghan schoolgirls are finishing sixth grade in tears. Under Taliban rule, their education is over



Eagles fans have long turned the page on snowball fiasco. 'No one was trying to hurt Santa Claus'



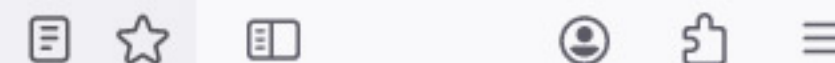
China approves 105 online games after draft curbs trigger massive losses



Decaying Pillsbury mill in Illinois that once churned flour into opportunity is now getting new life







**TIMES** of SAN DIEGO

**San Diego Christmas Eve Afternoon Report**

Post-COVID eligibility reviews  
Many Low-Income Californians Losing Medical Insurance Coverage

Average temps on Christmas  
Pleasant Weather Forecast Christmas Day, But Showers by Friday

Nabbed after high-speed chase  
Four Rancho Santa Fe Residential Burglary Suspects Arrested

**NPR**

Housing affordability hit a new low in 2023  
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14 Israeli soldiers killed in one weekend in Gaza, showing Hamas' entrenchment  
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Yesterday

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How 'The O.C.' (Almost) Saved Rock  
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Trump: 'I Was Doing my Duty as President' by Claiming the Election Was Rigged  
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2023 Was the Year of the Reality TV Villain  
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Ukraine Pulled Off Death-Defying Raids Right Under Putin's Nose  
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HOLIDAYS  
A Small Town Turned Christmas Lights Into an Economic Miracle

**LIFE**  
Lessons in Kindness From Hundreds of Readers

SHOPPING  
Return Politeles Have Gotten More Annoying This Holiday Season

Showcase • 3 hours ago

**The San Francisco Standard**

**TOP STORIES**

DOWNTOWN  
Once Upon a Time, SF Department Stores Were Christmas Magic

HOLIDAY HOURS  
Christmas Day in San Francisco: What's Open?

DOWNTOWN  
Rally for Gaza in San Francisco Leads To Several Arrests

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**In Brief**

US Climate Solutions  
A look back at 2023

Climate 'Fake News'  
Why false believes about climate change persist

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Standards for appliances are being updated

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**Pleasanton Weekly.com**

**PleasantonWeekly.com**

Dec 24, 7:48 pm  
Tri-Valley Year in Review 2023

Dec 21, 3:25 pm  
News Digest: Sending holiday spirit to troops overseas | We'

Dec 21, 2:44 pm  
How Mountain View's oldest house became a motive for the 197

Showcase • 11 hours ago



**Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)** is a mental and behavioral disorder that develops from experiencing a traumatic event, such as sexual assault, warfare, traffic collisions, child abuse, domestic violence, or other threats on a person's life or well-being. Symptoms may include disturbing thoughts, feelings, or dreams related to the events, mental or physical distress to trauma-related cues, attempts to avoid trauma-related cues, alterations in the way a person thinks and feels, and an increase in the fight-or-flight response.[1] Young children are less likely to show distress, but instead may express their memories through play. A person with PTSD is at a higher risk of suicide and intentional self-harm. Most people who experience traumatic events do not develop PTSD. People who experience interpersonal violence such as rape, other sexual assaults, being kidnapped, stalking, physical abuse by an intimate partner, and childhood abuse are more likely to develop PTSD than those who experience non-assault based trauma, such as accidents and natural disasters. Those who experience prolonged trauma, such as slavery, concentration camps, or chronic domestic abuse, may develop complex post-traumatic stress disorder (C-PTSD). C-PTSD is similar to PTSD, but has a distinct effect on a person's emotional regulation and core identity. Prevention may be possible when counselling is targeted at those with early symptoms, but is not effective when provided to all trauma-exposed individuals regardless of whether symptoms are present.[2] The main treatments for people with PTSD are counselling (psychotherapy) and medication. Antidepressants of the SSRI or SNRI type are the first-line medications used for PTSD and are moderately beneficial for about half of people.[5] Benefits from medication are less than those seen with counselling.[2] It is not known whether using medications and counselling together has greater benefit than either method separately. Medications, other than some SSRIs or SNRIs, do not have enough evidence to support their use and, in the case of benzodiazepines, may worsen outcomes. In the United States, about 3.5% of adults have PTSD in a given year, and 9% of people develop it at some point in their life.[1] In much of the rest of the world, rates during a given year are between 0.5% and 1%. Higher rates may occur in regions of armed conflict. It is more common in women than men. Symptoms of trauma-related mental disorders have been documented since at least the time of the ancient Greeks.[18] A few instances of evidence of post-traumatic illness have been argued to exist from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, such as the diary of Samuel Pepys, who described intrusive and distressing symptoms following the 1666 Fire of London.[19] During the world wars, the condition was known under various terms, including 'shell shock', 'war nerves', neurasthenia and 'combat neurosis'. **The term "post-traumatic stress disorder" came into use in the 1970s, in large part due to the diagnoses of U.S. military veterans of the Vietnam War. It was officially recognized by the American Psychiatric Association in 1980 in the third edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-III).**

## Terminology

The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders does not hyphenate "post" and "traumatic", thus, the DSM-5 lists the disorder as posttraumatic stress disorder. However, many scientific journal articles and other scholarly publications do hyphenate the name of the disorder, viz., "post-traumatic stress disorder".[292] Dictionaries also differ with regard to the preferred spelling of the disorder with the Collins English Dictionary – Complete and Unabridged using the hyphenated spelling, and the American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, Fifth Edition and the Random House Kernerman Webster's College Dictionary giving the non-hyphenated spelling. Some authors have used the terms "post-traumatic stress syndrome" or "post-traumatic stress symptoms" ("PTSS"), or simply "post-traumatic stress" ("PTS") in the case of the U.S. Department of Defense, to avoid stigma associated with the word "disorder".

**The comedian George Carlin criticized the euphemism treadmill which led to progressive change of the way PTSD was referred to over the course of the 20th century, from "shell shock" in the First World War to the "battle fatigue" in the Second World War, to "operational exhaustion" in the Korean War, to the current "post-traumatic stress disorder", coined during the Vietnam War, which "added a hyphen" and which, he commented, "completely buries the pain under jargon". He also stated that the name given to the condition has had a direct effect on the way veteran soldiers with PTSD were treated and perceived by civilian populations over time.**

**The term posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD)** has become a household name since its first appearance in 1980 in the third edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-III) published by the American Psychiatric Association. In the collective mind, this diagnosis is associated with the legacy of the Vietnam War disaster. Earlier conflicts had given birth to terms, such as "soldier's heart," "shell shock," and "war neurosis." The latter diagnosis was equivalent to the *névrose de guerre* and *Kriegsneurose* of French and German scientific literature. This article describes how the immediate and chronic consequences of psychological trauma made their way into >  
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3181586/> *medical literature, and how concepts of diagnosis and treatment evolved over time.*

**This paper describes the history** of the development of understanding of psychological responses to traumatic life-events and their treatment. One major response, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), is a recognized condition which has appeared relatively recently in diagnostic manuals. PTSD is a condition of major significance, not only to mental health professionals, but also to trauma surgeons and allied professionals. This paper focuses on the current definition of PTSD in the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10, 1992, World Health Organization) and the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of the American Psychiatric Association (DSM-IV, 1994). PTSD first appeared as an operational diagnosis in DSM-III (1980) and was revised in DSM-III-R (1987) and DSM-IV (1994). It made its first appearance in the ICD system later, in 1992. This paper seeks to increase awareness of PTSD across the broad spectrum of trauma management professionals, to emphasize the practical value of identifying the disorder and to encourage optimism for its treatment. This paper is in two parts. The first part deals with historical development and classification. The second part (to appear [in the next issue of Injury](#)) deals with treatment. > <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/10721399/>



**Aspects of PTSD** in soldiers of ancient Assyria have been identified using written sources from 1300 to 600 BCE. These Assyrian soldiers would undergo a three-year rotation of combat before being allowed to return home, and were reported to have faced immense challenges in reconciling their past actions in war with their civilian lives.[275]

Connections between the actions of Viking berserkers and the hyperarousal of post-traumatic stress disorder have also been drawn.[276]

Psychiatrist Jonathan Shay has proposed that Lady Percy's soliloquy in the William Shakespeare play *Henry IV, Part 1* (act 2, scene 3, lines 40–62[277]), written around 1597, represents an unusually accurate description of the symptom constellation of PTSD.[278]

Many historical wartime diagnoses such as railway spine, stress syndrome, nostalgia, soldier's heart, shell shock, battle fatigue, combat stress reaction, and traumatic war neurosis are now associated with PTSD.[280][281]

The correlations between combat and PTSD are undeniable; according to Stéphane Audoin-Rouzeau and Annette Becker, "One-tenth of mobilized American men were hospitalized for mental disturbances between 1942 and 1945, and, after thirty-five days of uninterrupted combat, 98% of them manifested psychiatric disturbances in varying degrees." [282]

The DSM-I (1952) includes a diagnosis of "gross stress reaction", which has similarities to the modern definition and understanding of PTSD.[283] Gross stress reaction is defined as a normal personality using established patterns of reaction to deal with overwhelming fear as a response to conditions of great stress.[284] The diagnosis includes language which relates the condition to combat as well as to "civilian catastrophe".[284]

Statue, Three Servicemen, Vietnam Veterans Memorial

**The addition of the term to the DSM-III was greatly influenced by the experiences and conditions of U.S. military veterans of the Vietnam War.[285] In fact, much of the available published research regarding PTSD is based on studies done on veterans of the war in Vietnam.**

Because of the initial overt focus on PTSD as a combat related disorder when it was first fleshed out in the years following the war in Vietnam, in 1975 Ann Wolbert Burgess and Lynda Lytle Holmstrom defined rape trauma syndrome (RTS) in order to draw attention to the striking similarities between the experiences of soldiers returning from war and of rape victims.[286] This paved the way for a more comprehensive understanding of causes of PTSD.

Early in 1978, the diagnosis term "post-traumatic stress disorder" was first recommended in a working group finding presented to the Committee of Reactive Disorders.[287]

A USAF study carried out in 1979 focused on individuals (civilian and military) who had worked to recover or identify the remains of those who died in Jonestown. The bodies had been dead for several days, and a third of them had been children. The study used the term "dysphoria" to describe PTSD-like symptoms.[288]

**After PTSD became an official American psychiatric diagnosis with the publication of DSM-III (1980),** the number of personal injury lawsuits (tort claims) asserting the plaintiff had PTSD increased rapidly. However, triers of fact (judges and juries) often regarded the PTSD diagnostic criteria as imprecise, a view shared by legal scholars, trauma specialists, forensic psychologists, and forensic psychiatrists. The condition was termed "posttraumatic stress disorder" in the DSM-III (1980).[283][287]

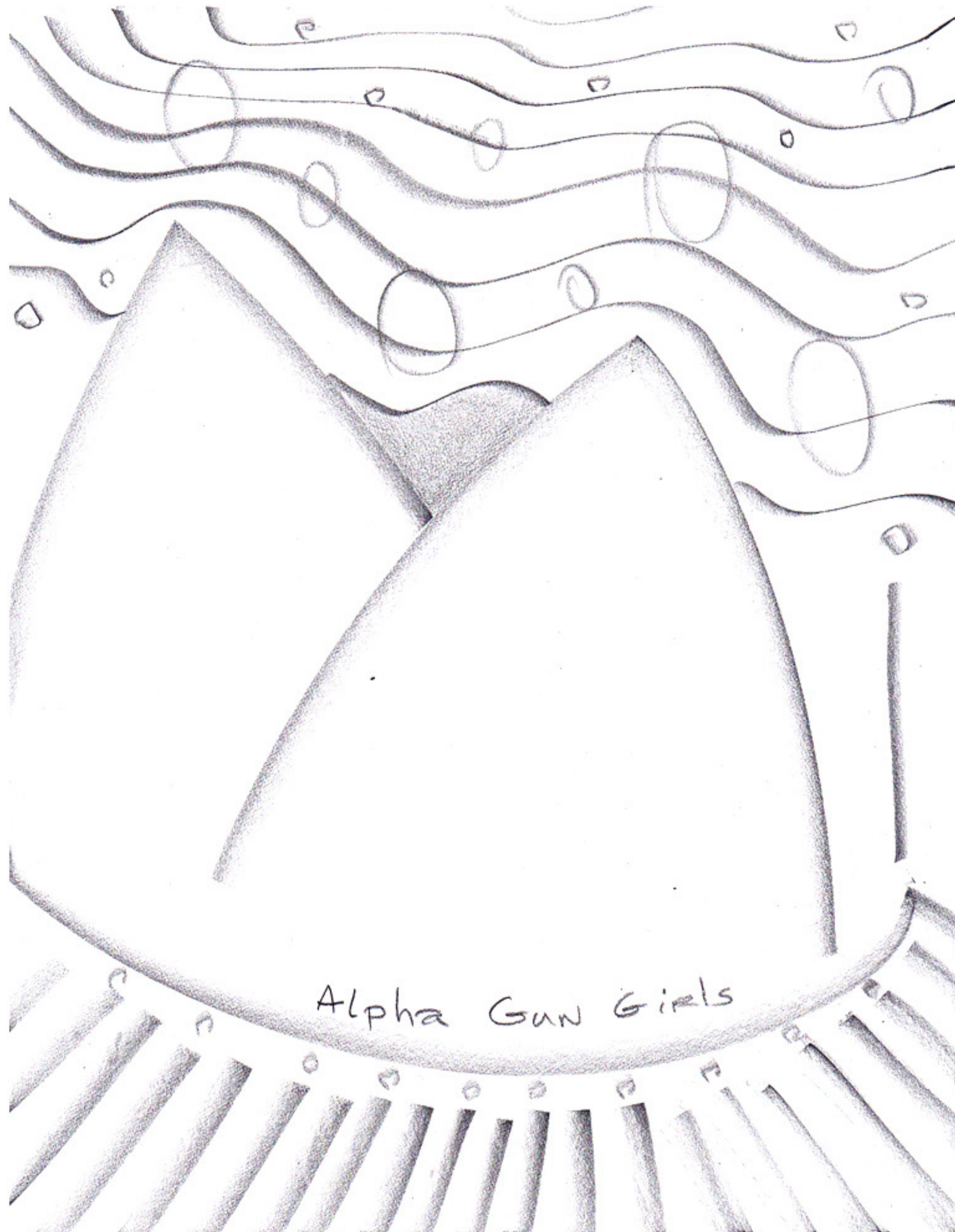
Professional discussions and debates in academic journals, at conferences, and between thought leaders, led to a more clearly-defined set of diagnostic criteria in DSM-IV (1994), particularly the definition of a "traumatic event".[289] The DSM-IV classified PTSD under anxiety disorders. In the ICD-10 (first used in 1994), the spelling of the condition was "post-traumatic stress disorder".[290]

**In 2012, the researchers from the Grady Trauma Project highlighted the tendency people have to focus on the combat side of PTSD: "less public awareness has focused on civilian PTSD, which results from trauma exposure that is not combat related..." and "much of the research on civilian PTSD has focused on the sequelae of a single, disastrous event, such as the Oklahoma City bombing, September 11th attacks, and Hurricane Katrina".**[291] Disparity in the focus of PTSD research affected the already popular perception of the exclusive interconnectedness of combat and PTSD. This is misleading when it comes to understanding the implications and extent of PTSD as a neurological disorder.

The DSM-5 (2013) created a new category called "trauma and stressor-related disorders", in which PTSD is now classified.[1]

America's 2014 National Comorbidity Survey reports that "the traumas most commonly associated with PTSD are combat exposure and witnessing among men and rape and sexual molestation among women." [58]

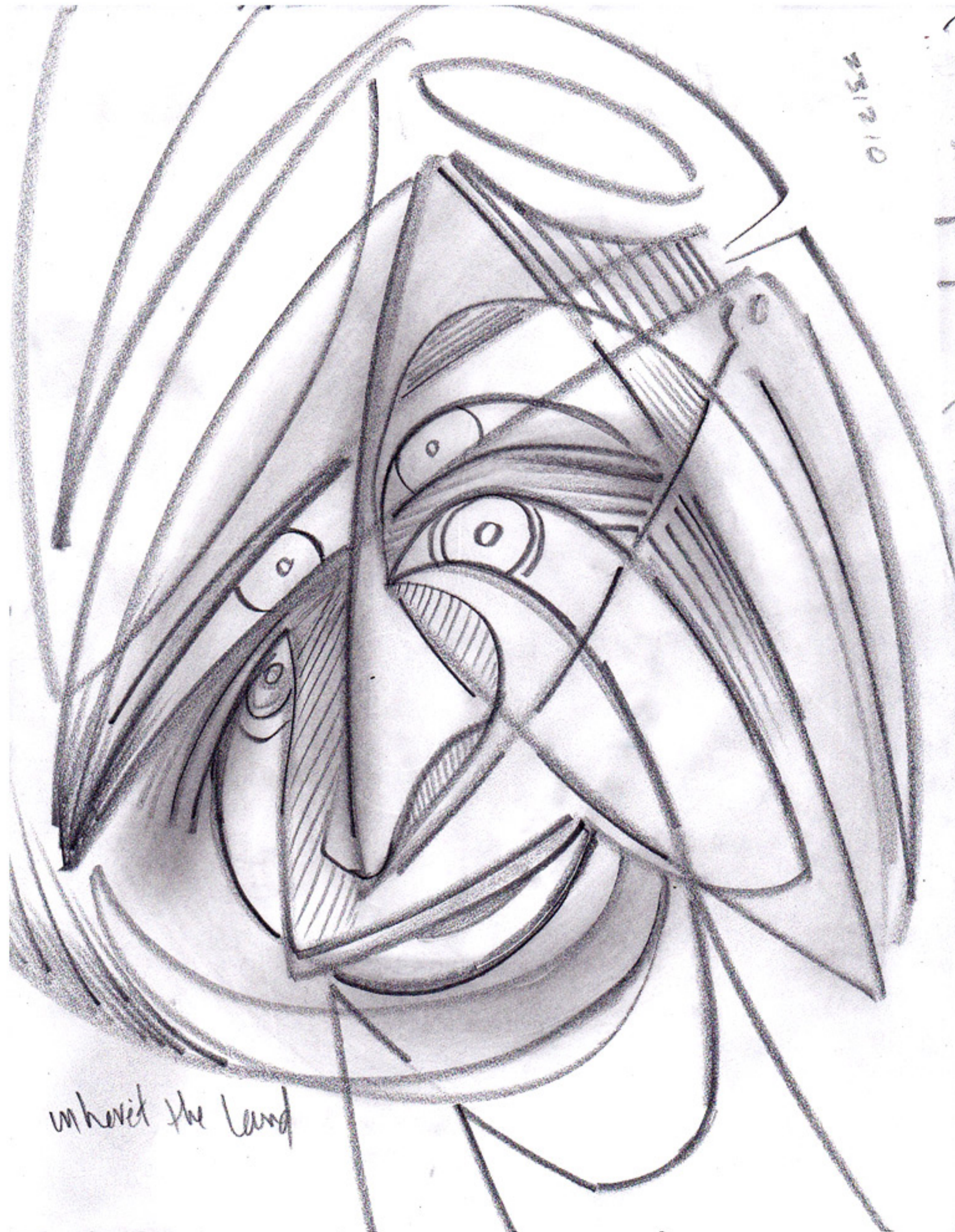










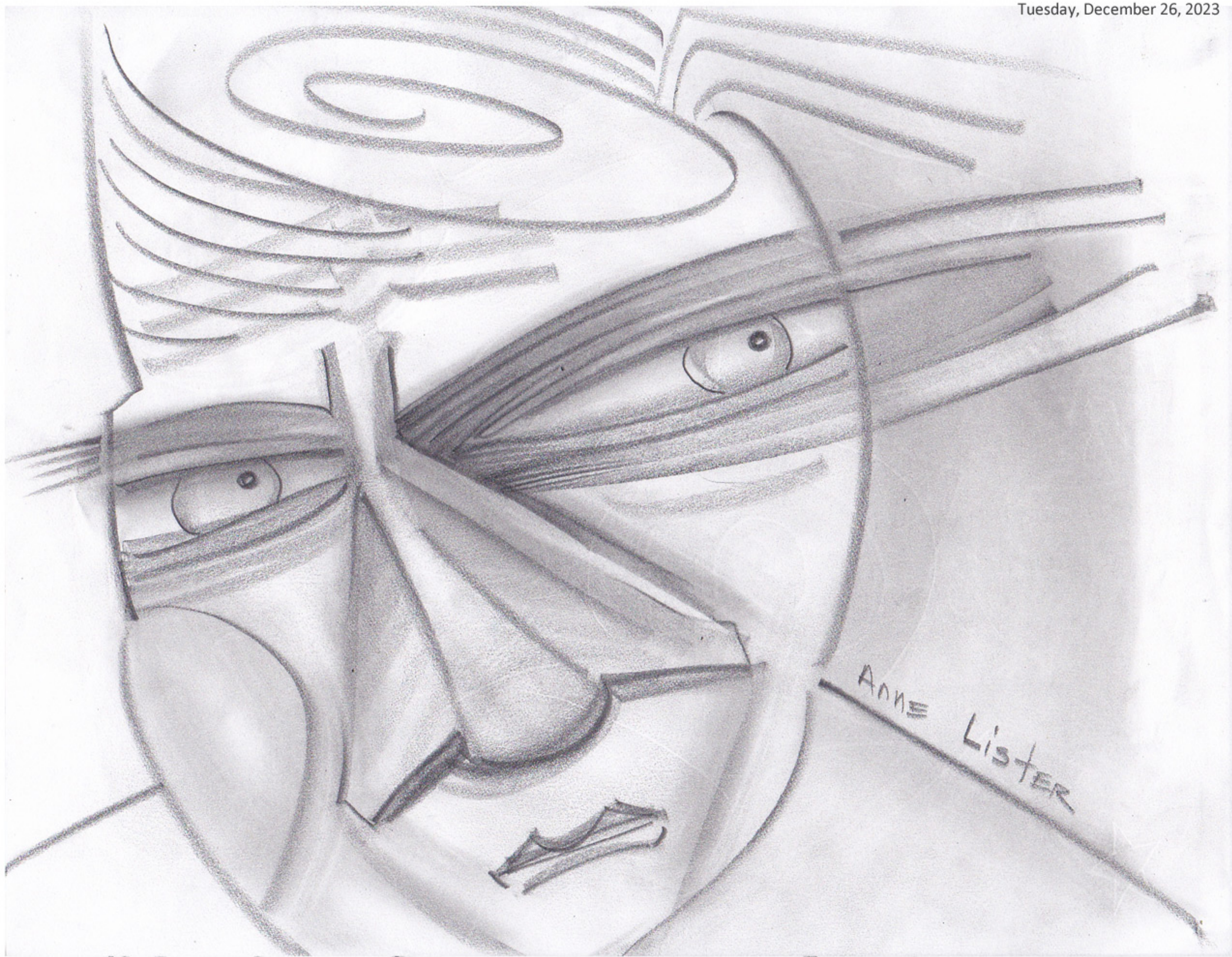




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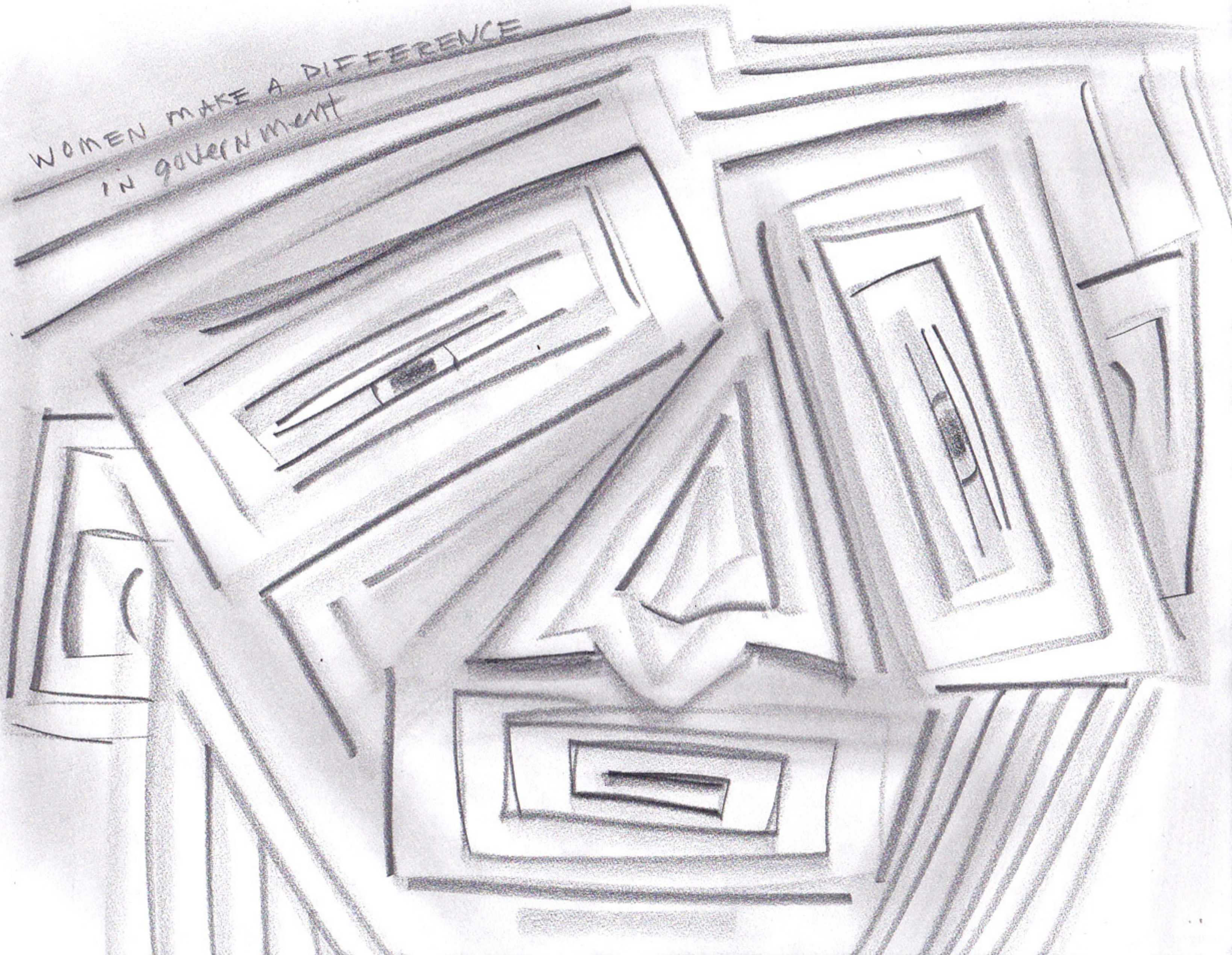




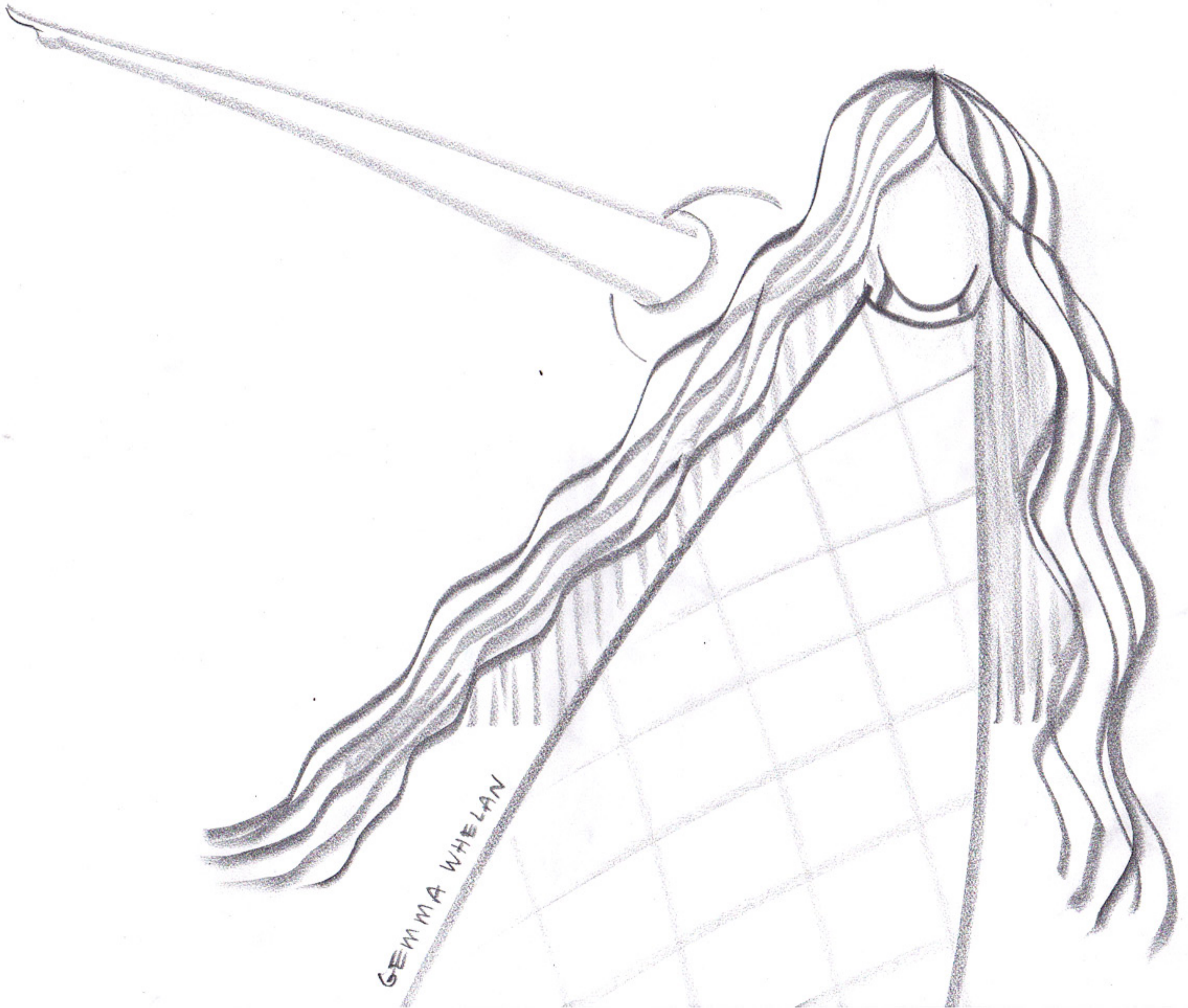
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WOMEN MAKE A DIFFERENCE  
IN GOVERNMENT

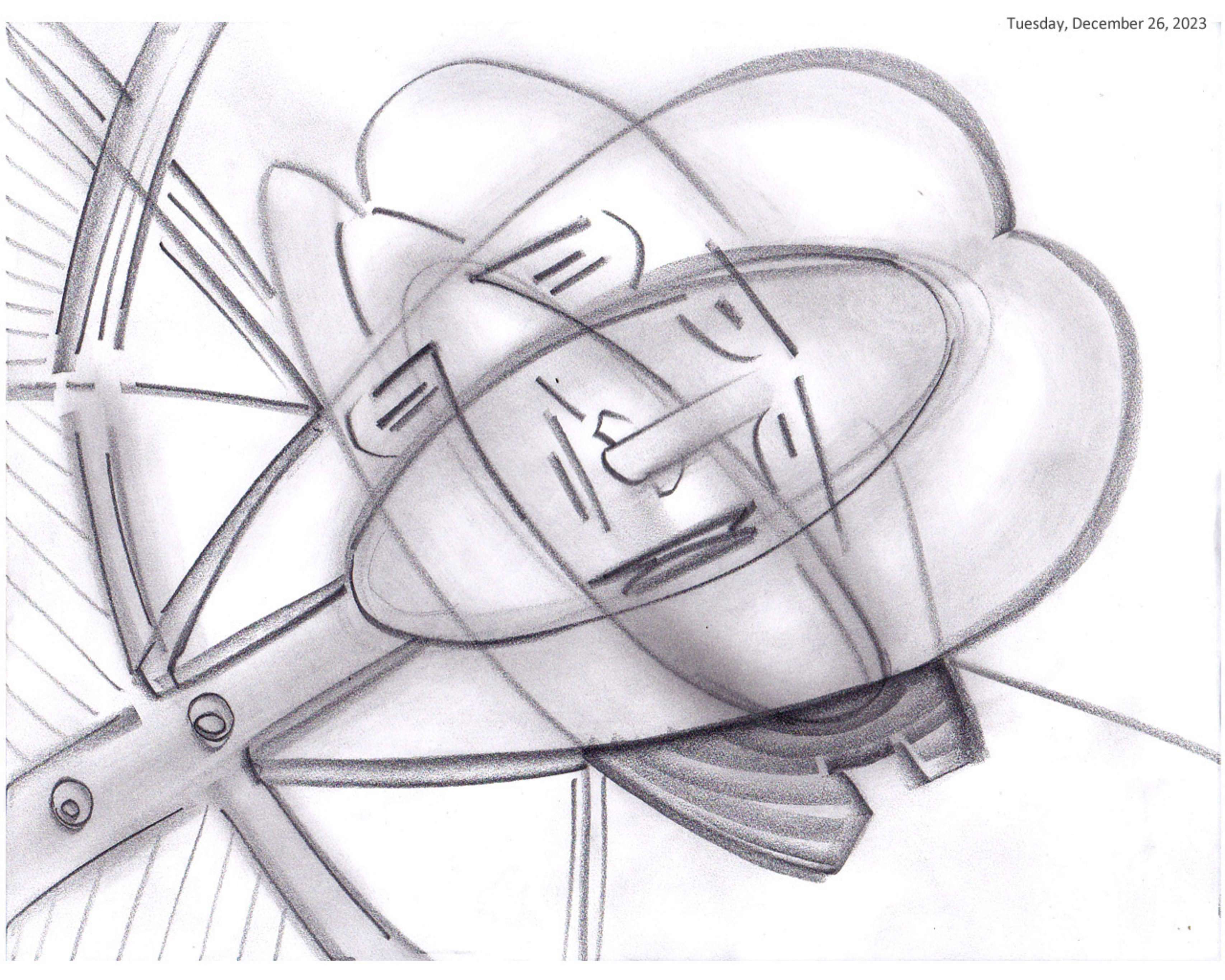






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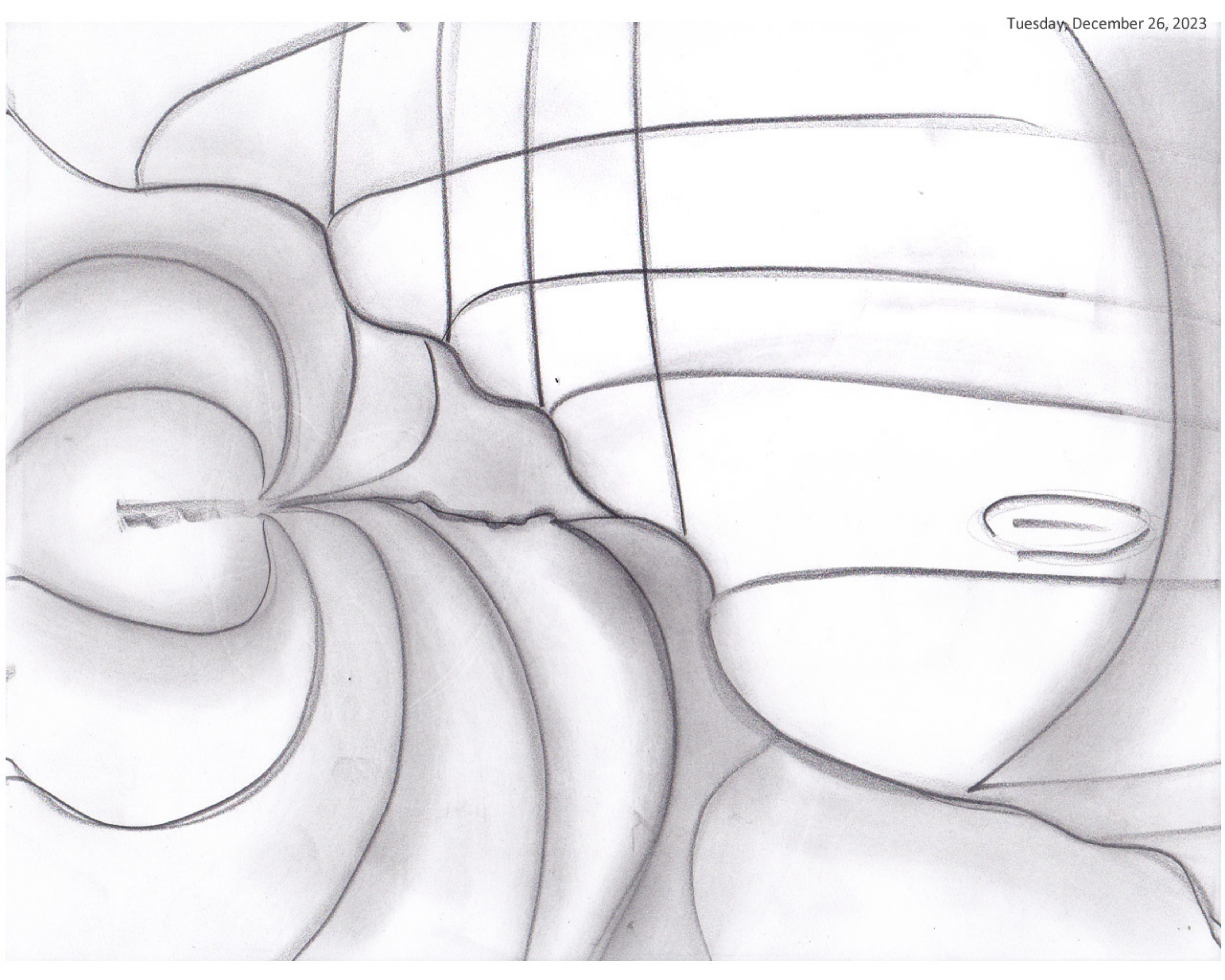














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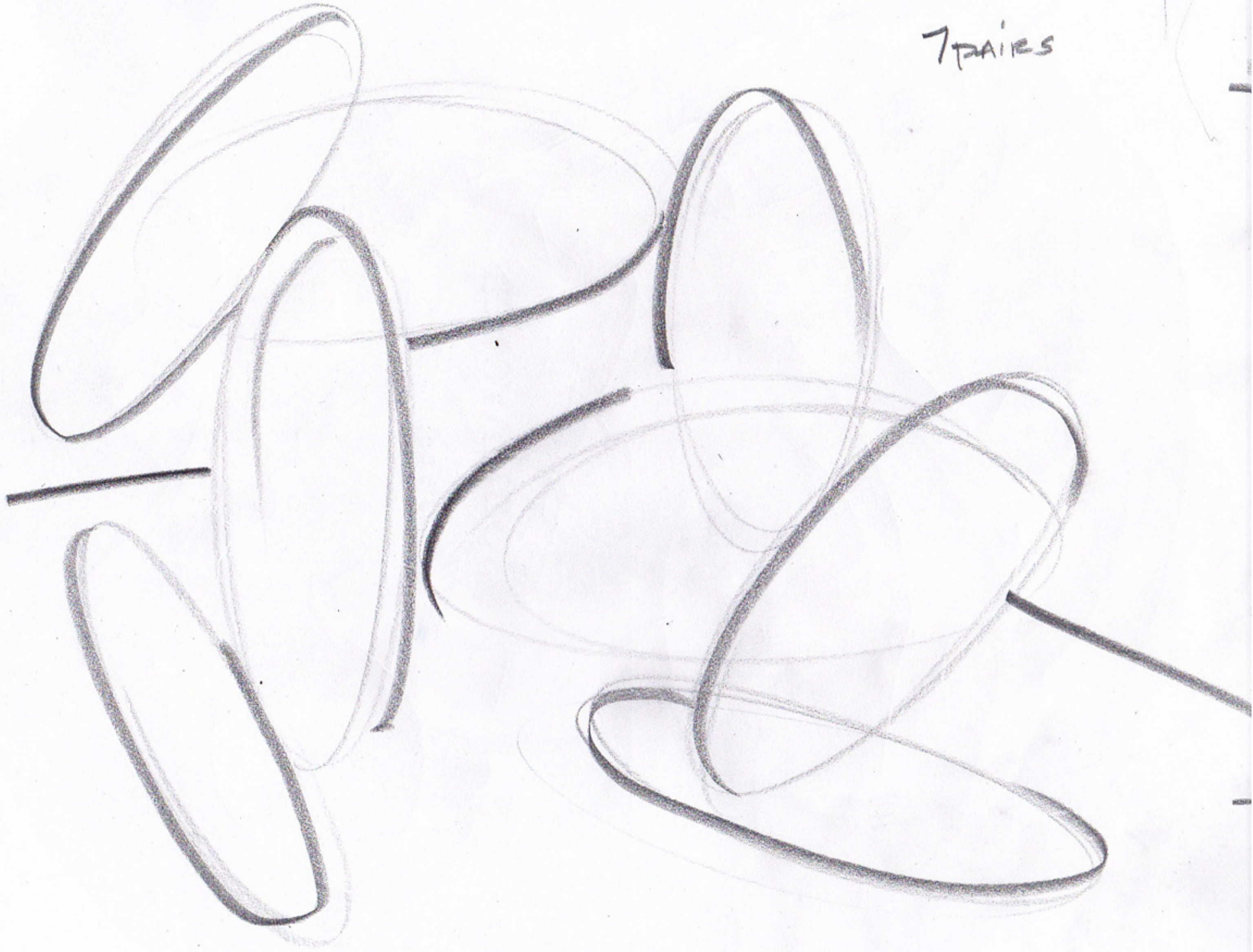




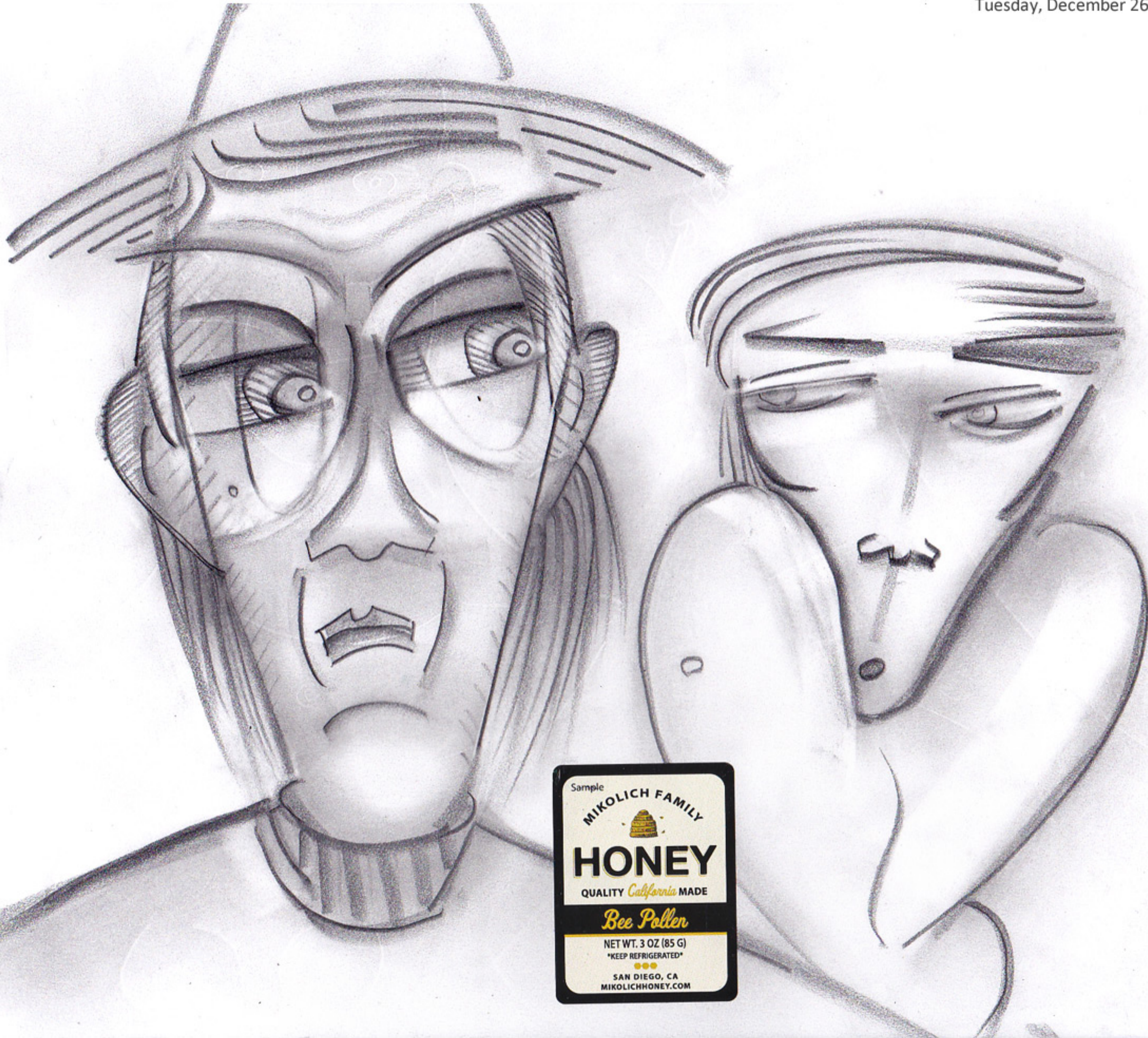




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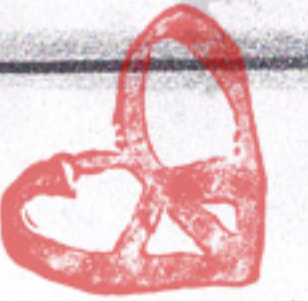
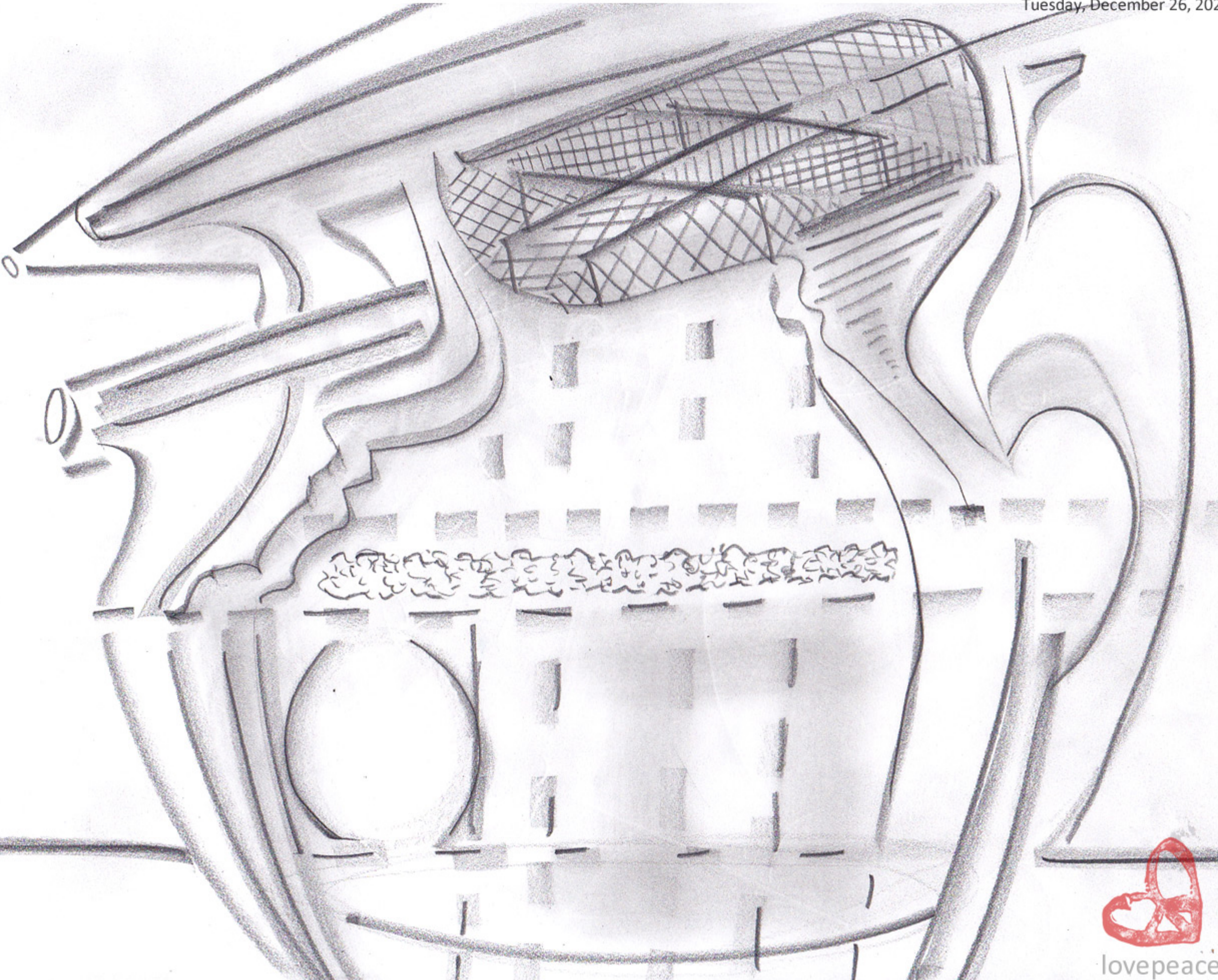
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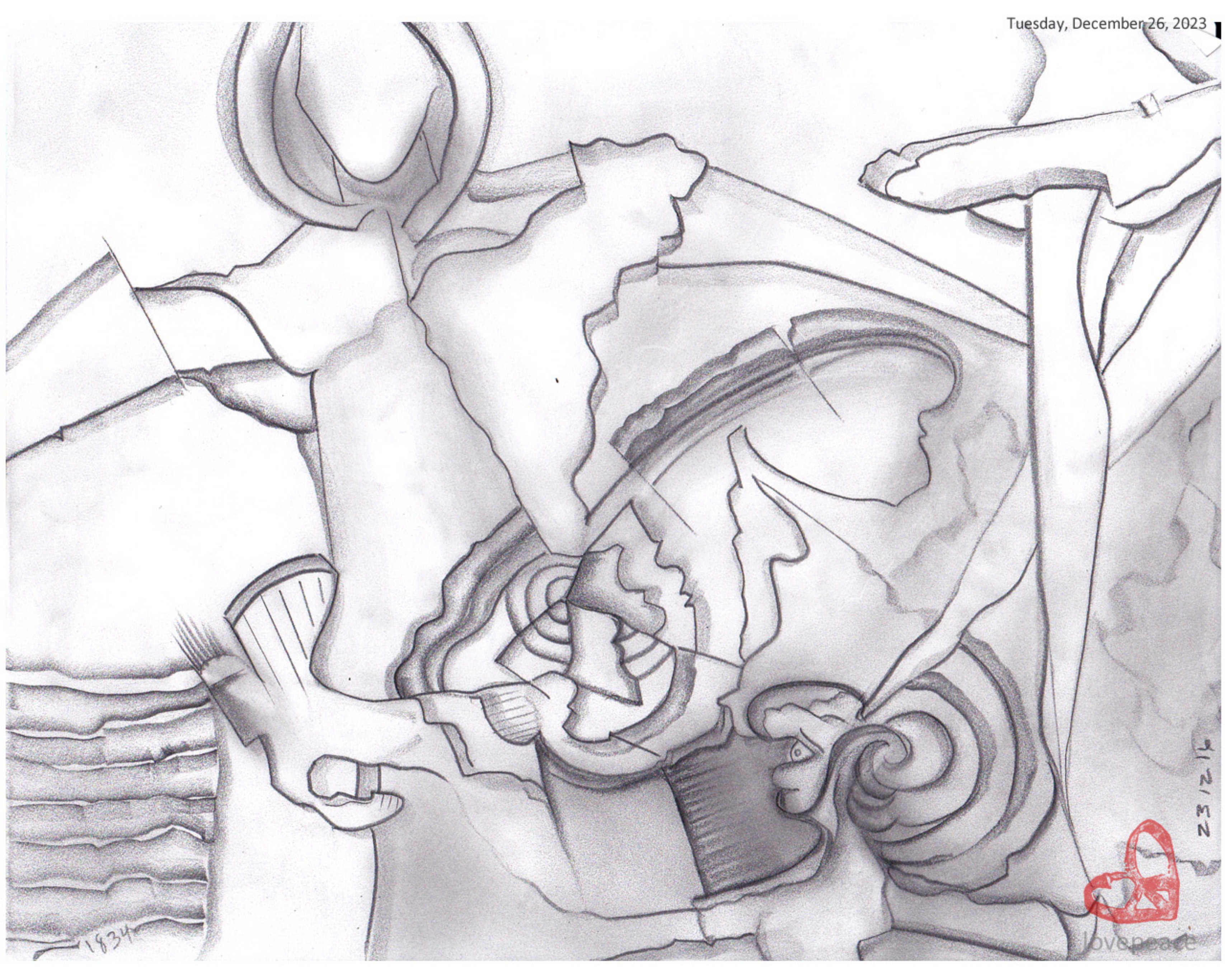


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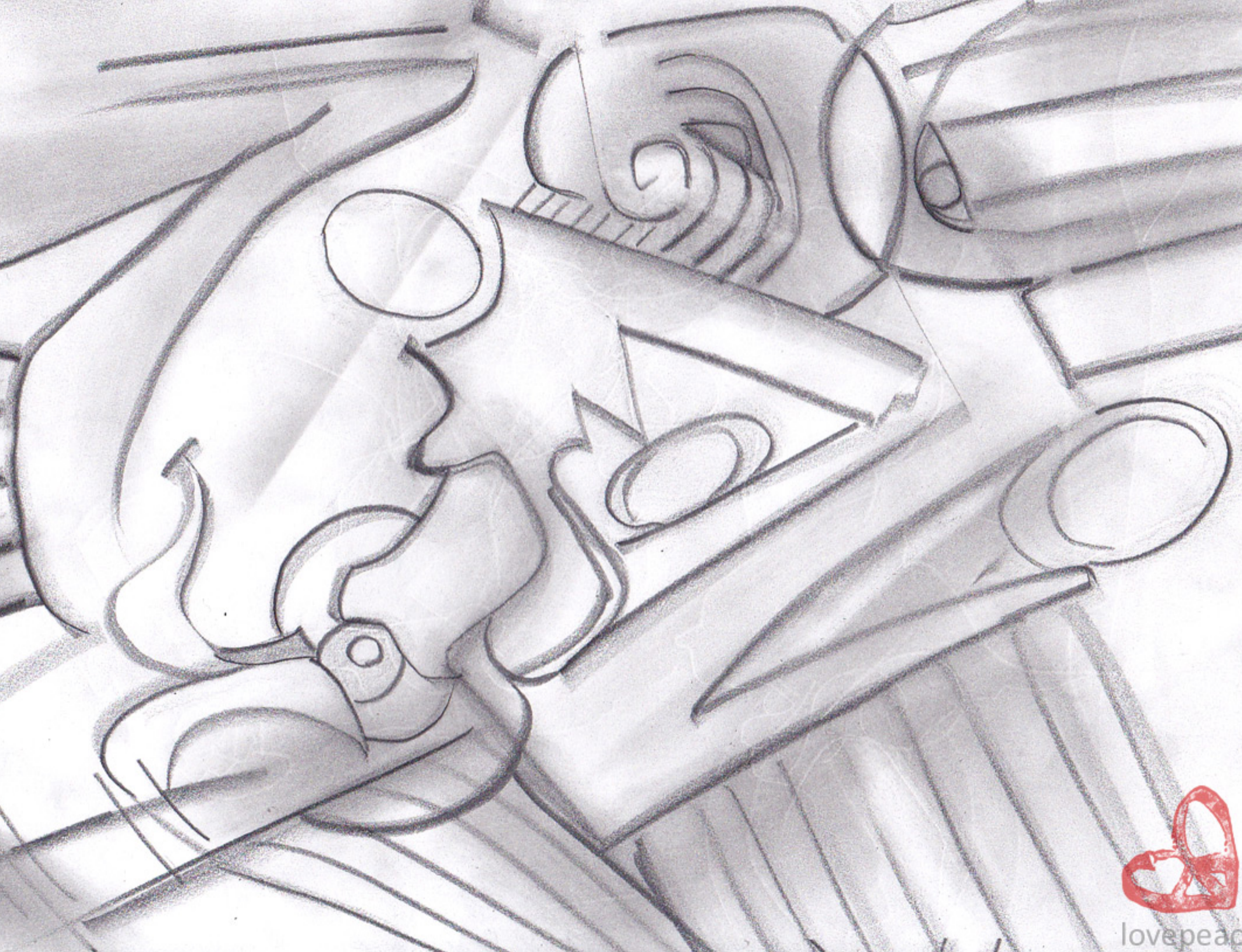


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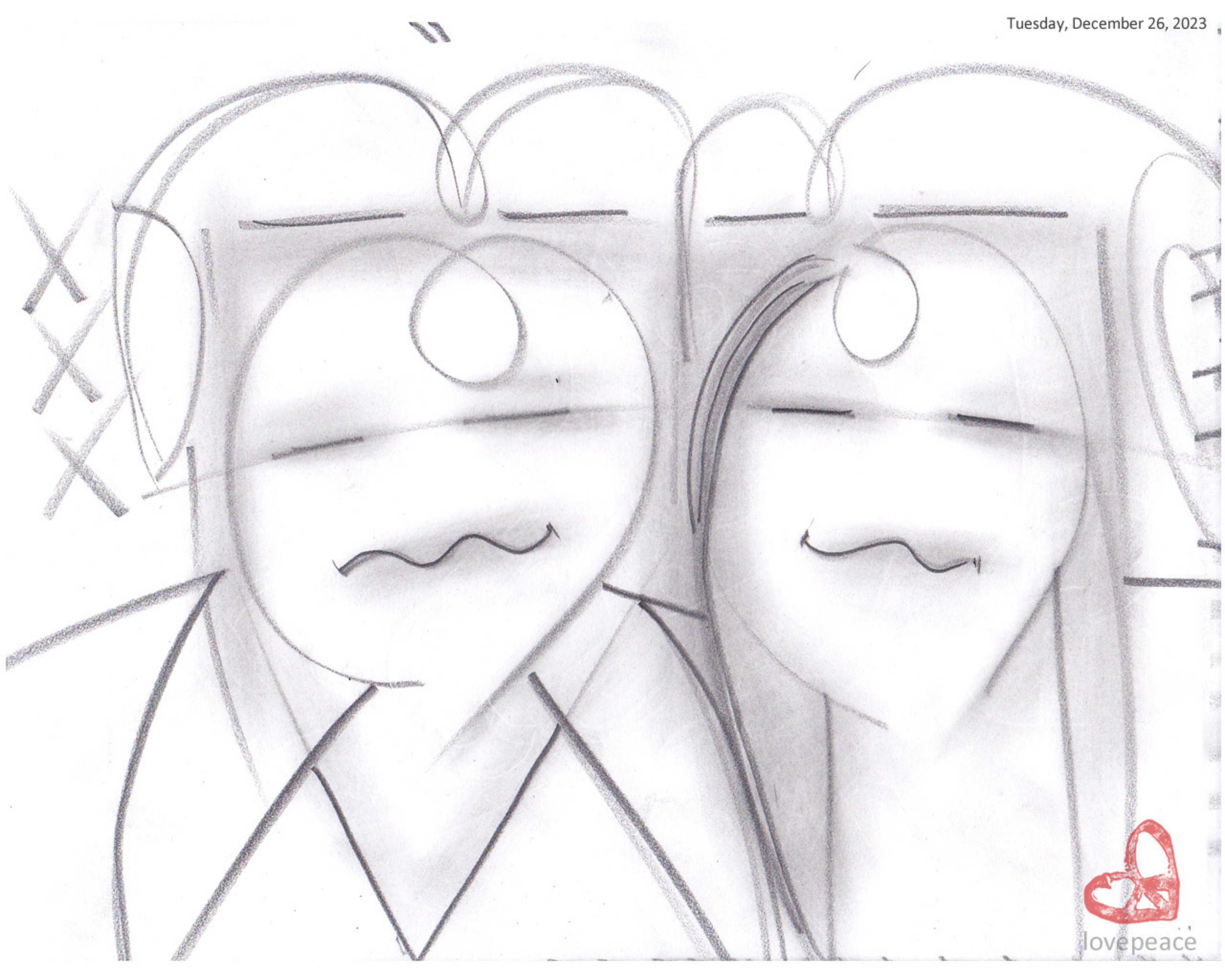
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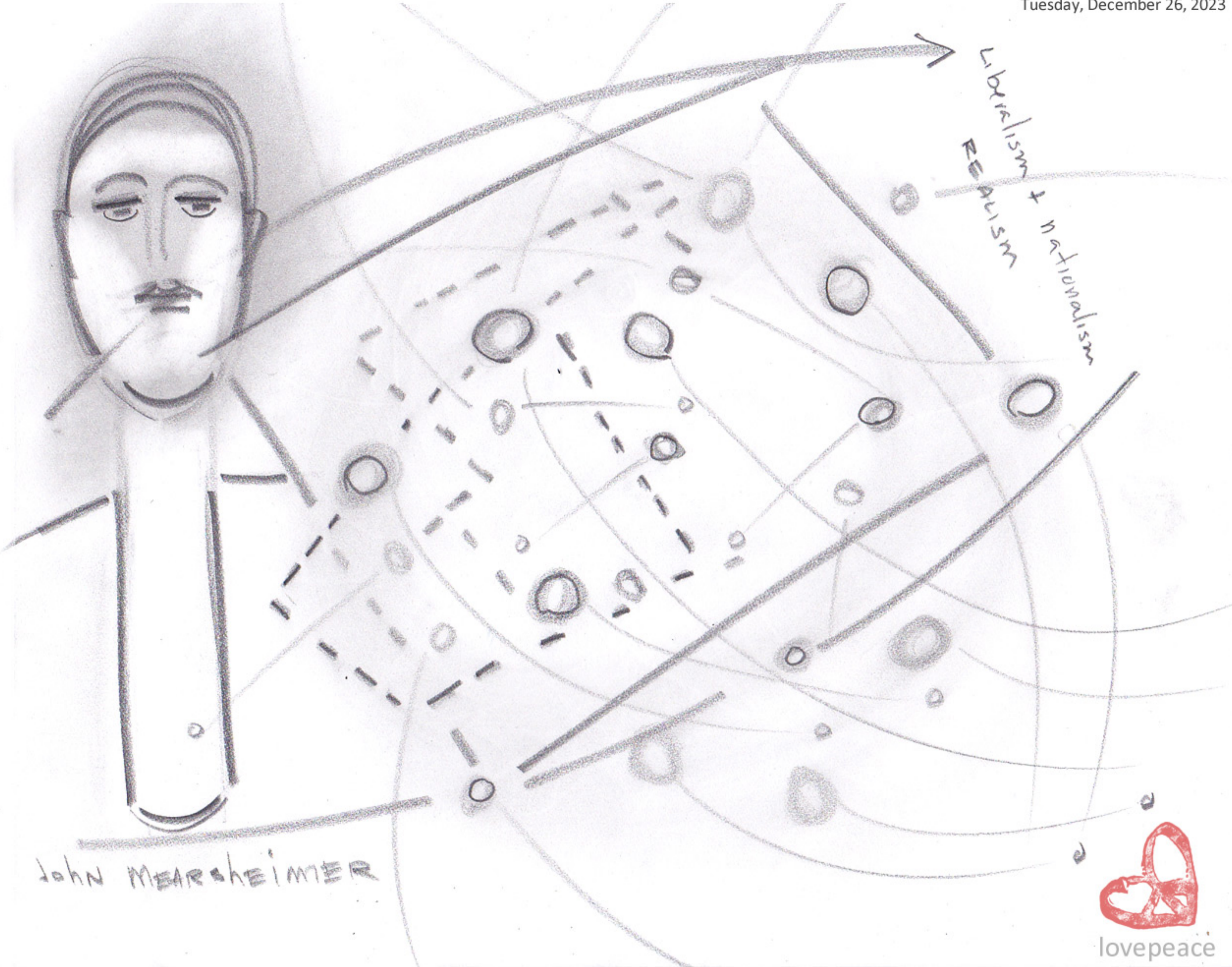
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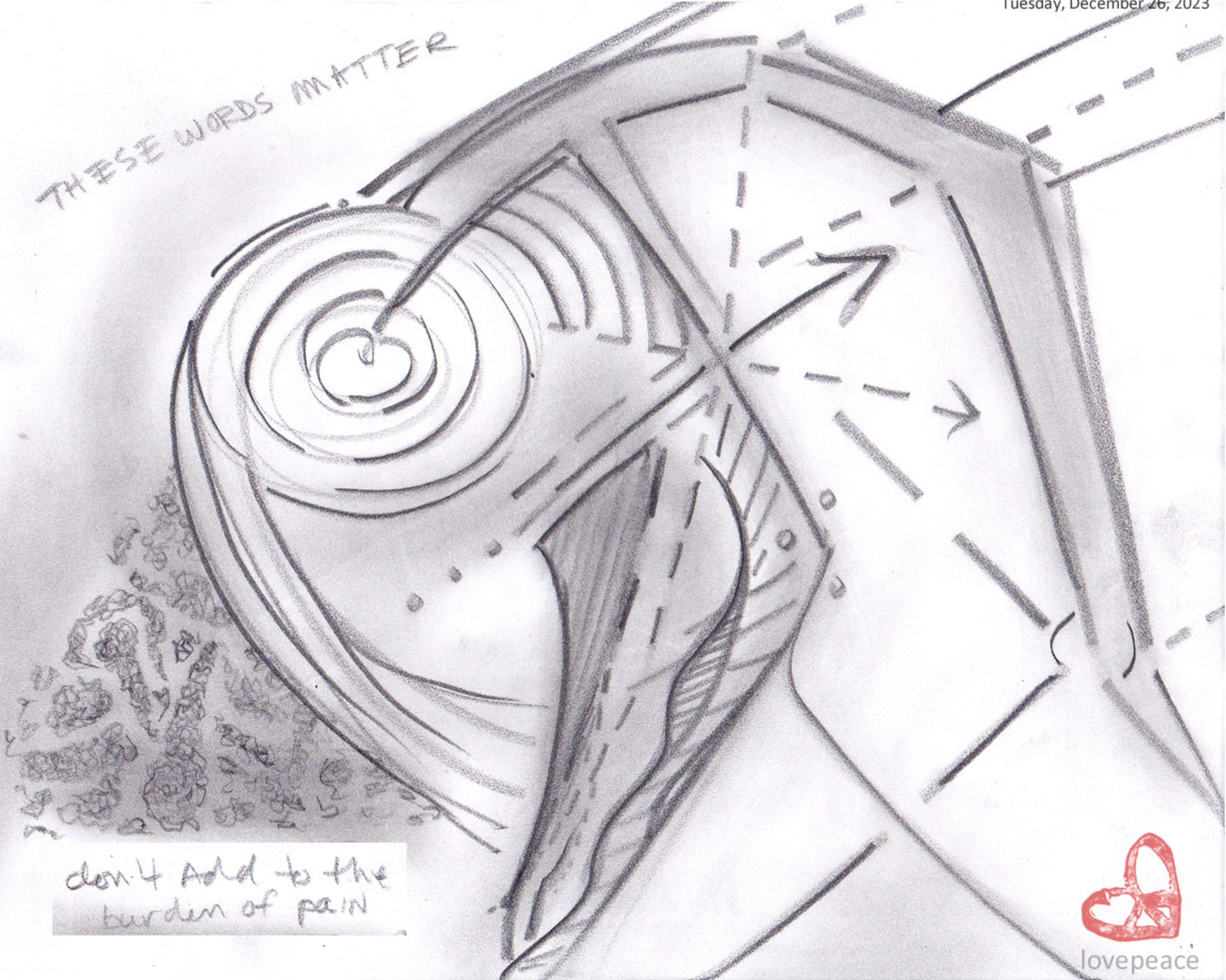








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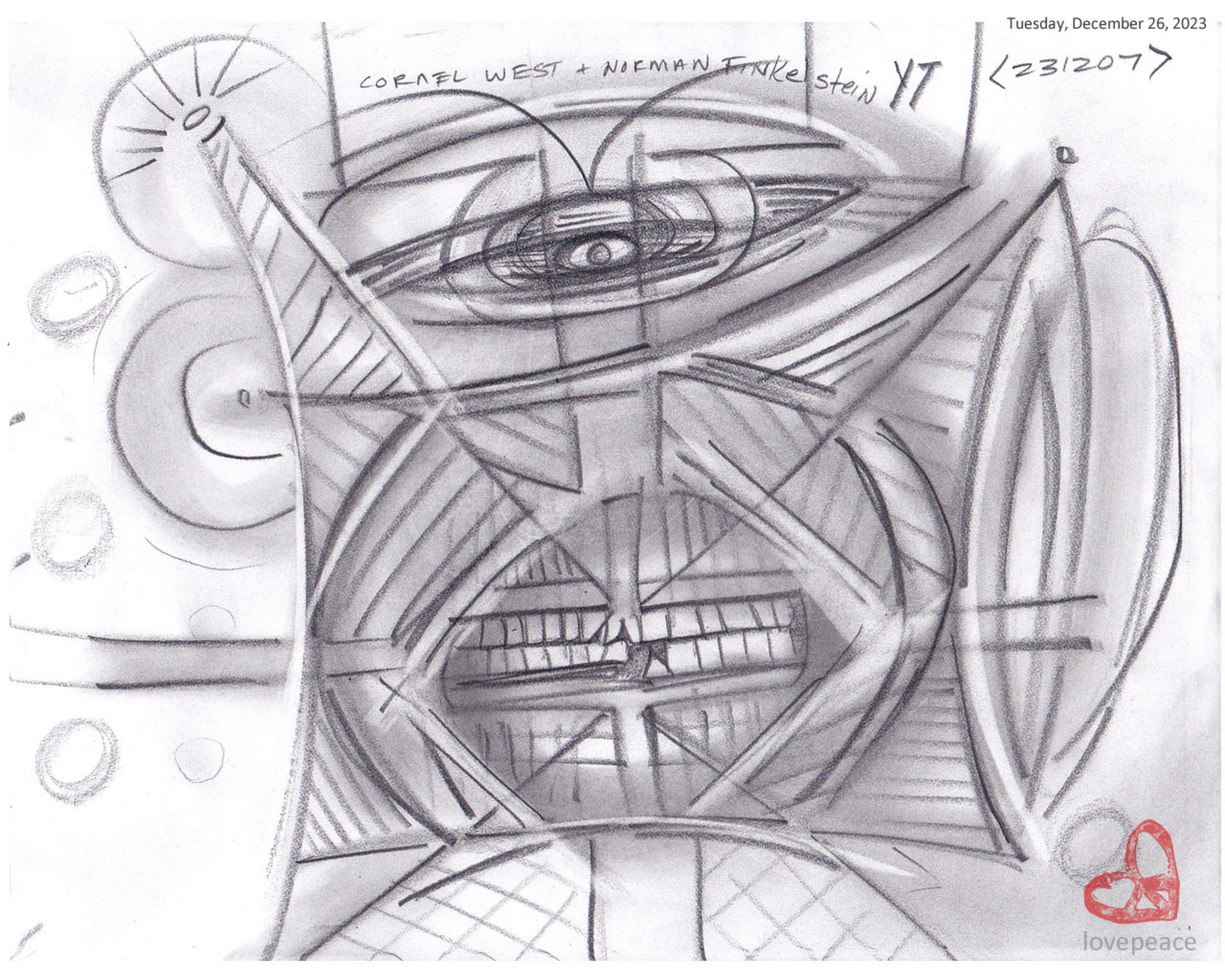
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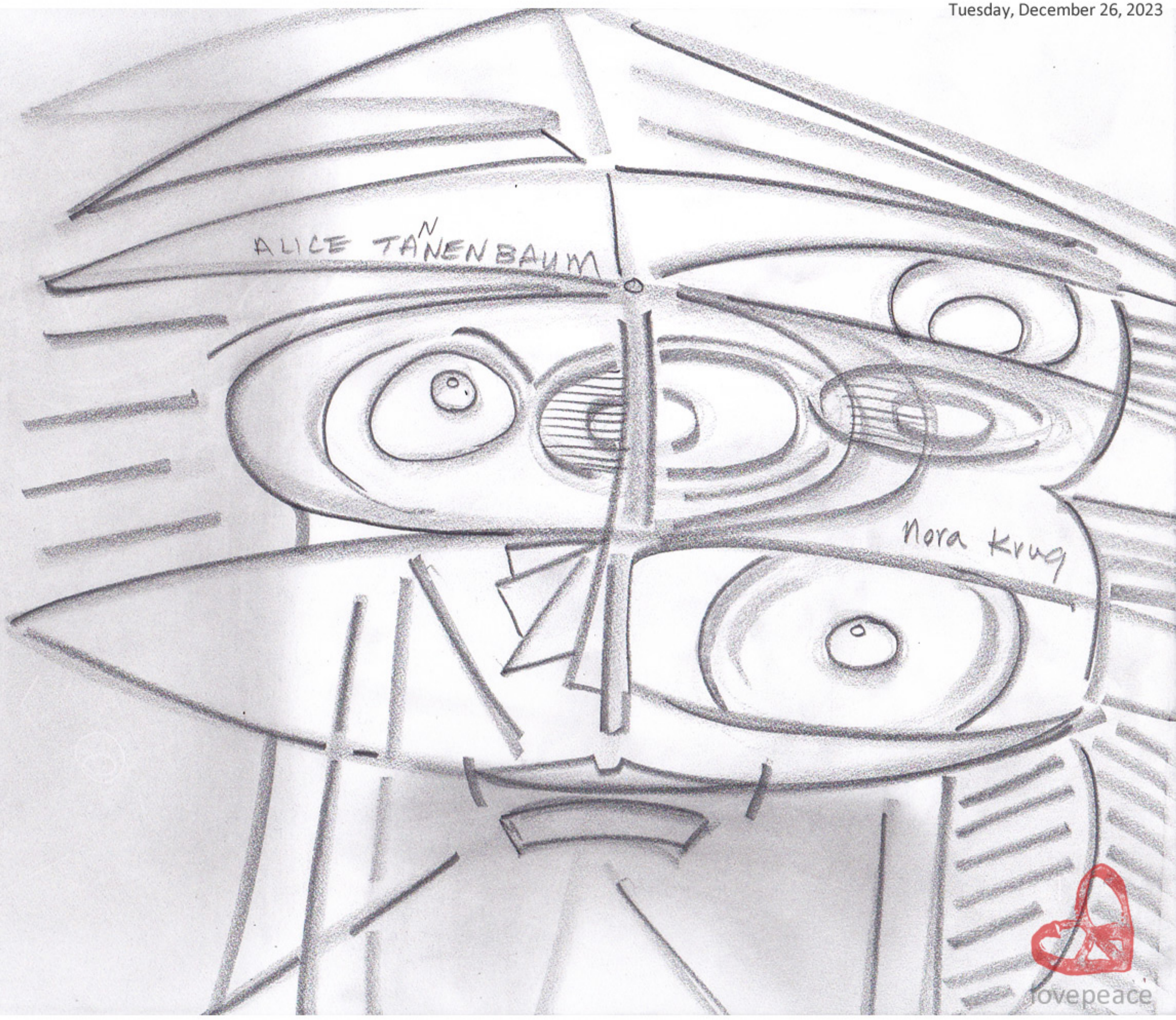
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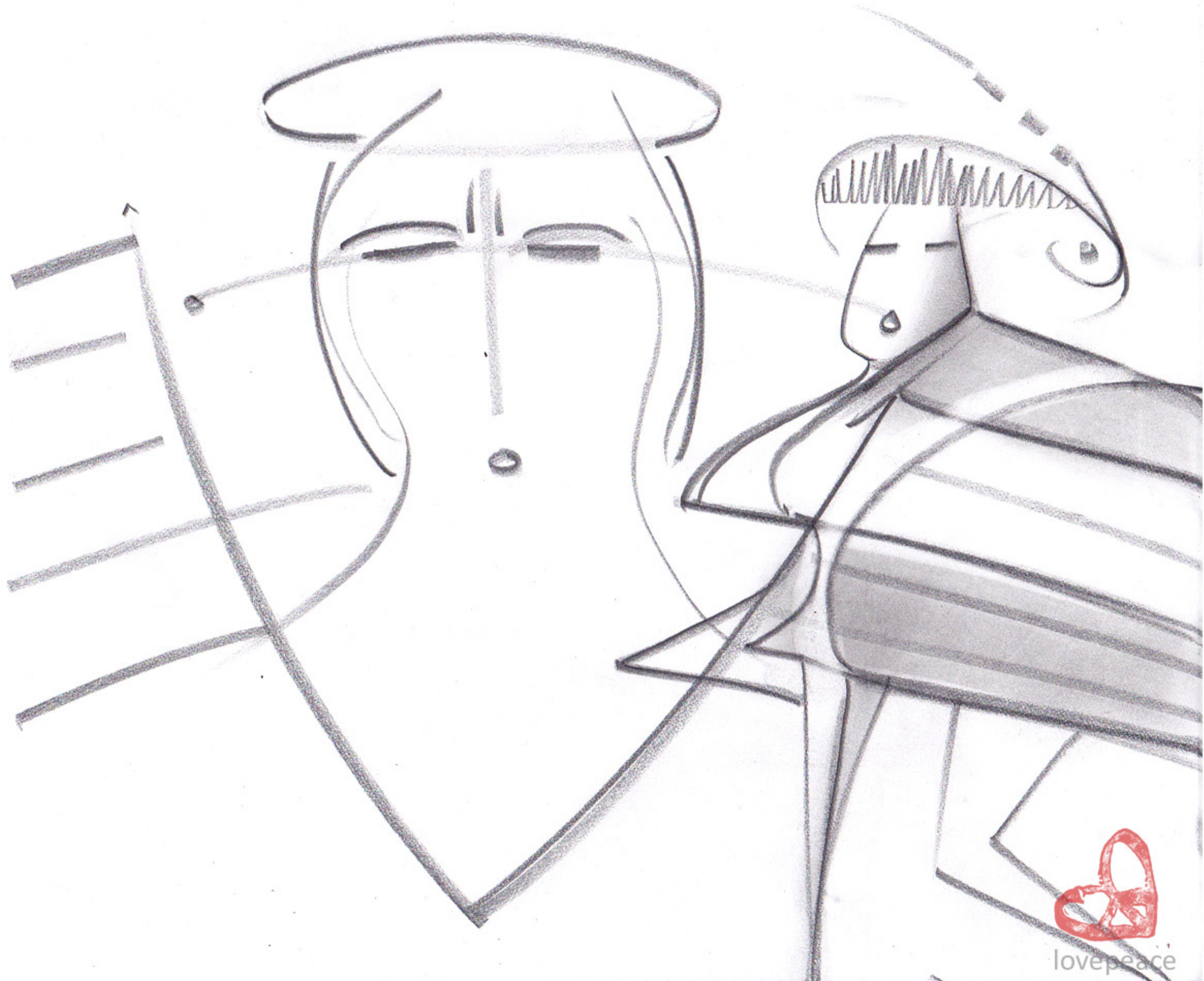
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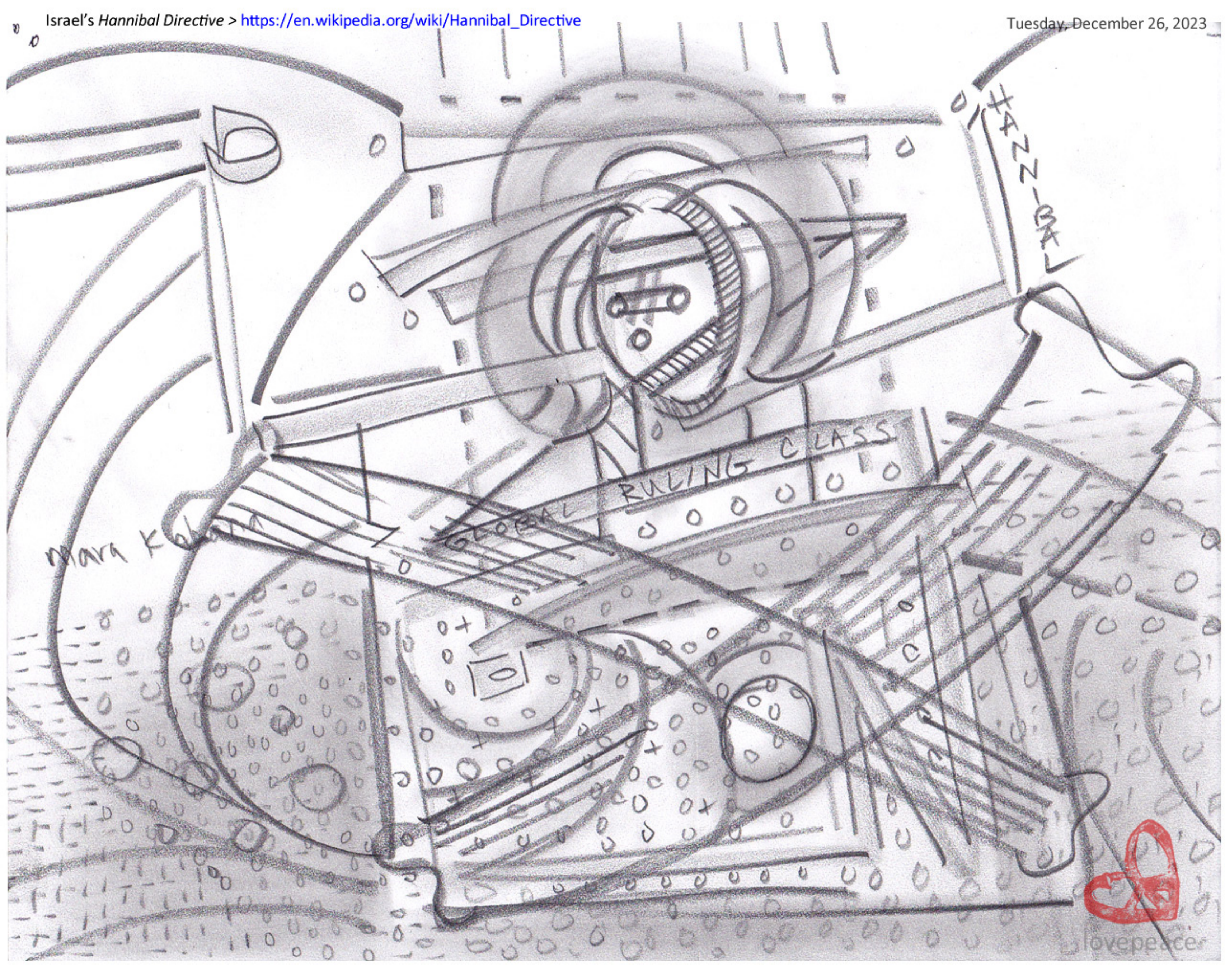


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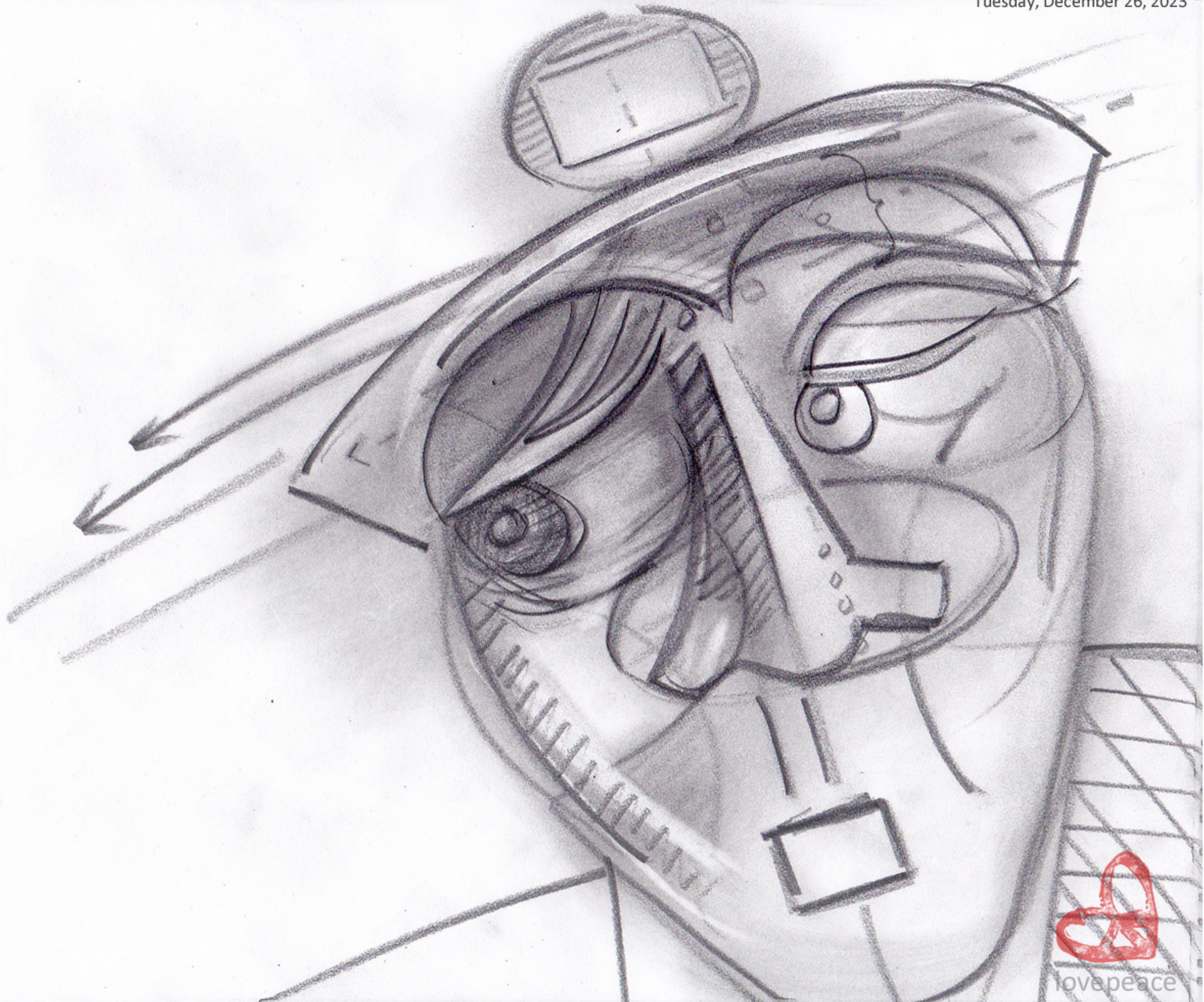


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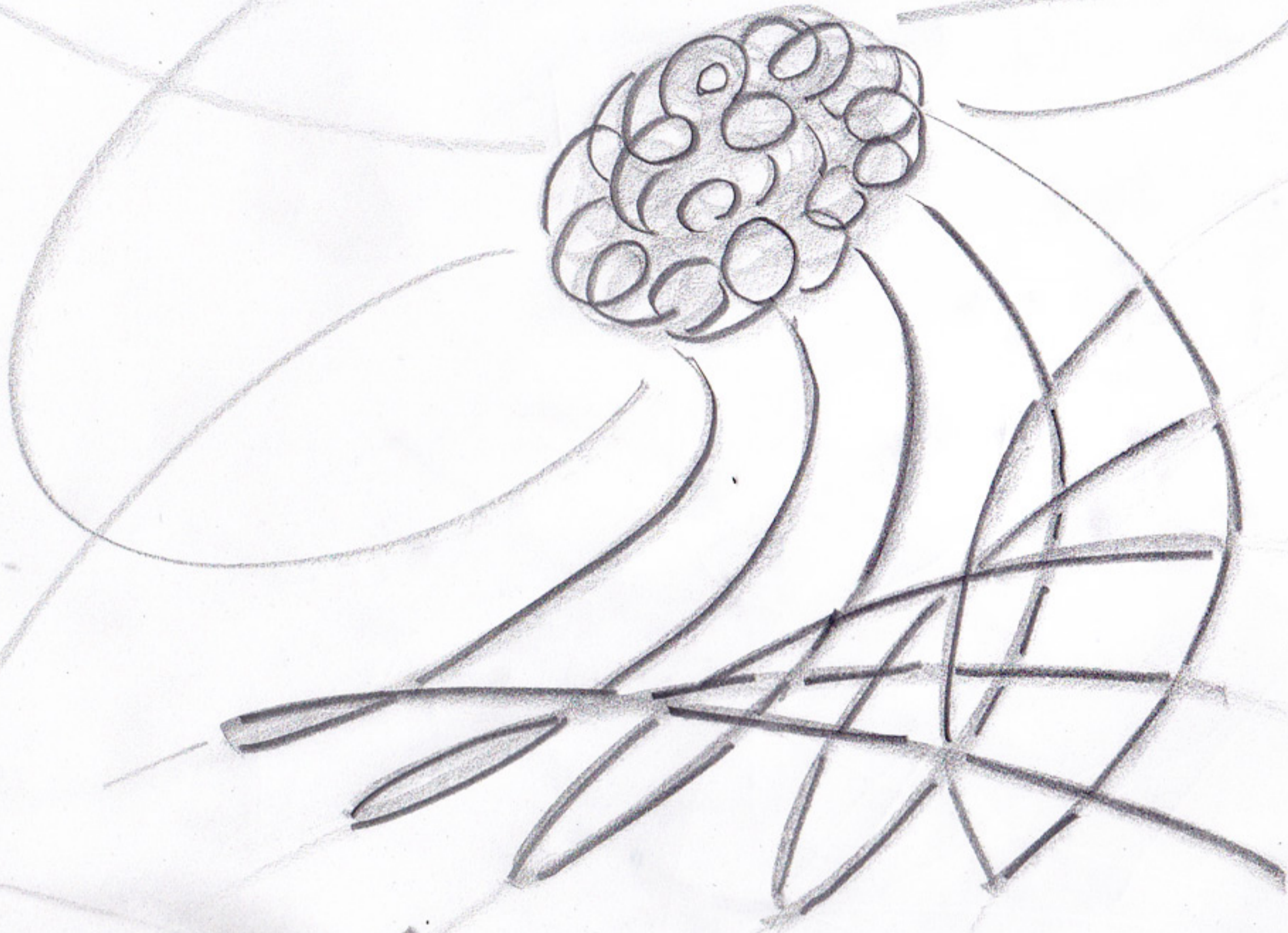












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# THE CONVERSATION

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THE LIFE OF SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI > PROLOGUE > 1. The grace of God our Saviour hath in these latter days appeared in His servant Francis unto all such as be truly humble, and lovers of holy Poverty, who, adoring the overflowing mercy of God seen in him, are taught by his ensample to utterly deny ungodliness and worldly lusts and to live after the manner of Christ, thirsting with unwearied desire for the blessed hope. For God Most High regarded him, as one that truly was poor and of a contrite spirit, with so great condescension of His favour as that not only did He raise him up in his need from the dust of his worldly way of life, but also made him a true professor, leader, and herald of Gospel perfection. Thus He gave him for a light unto believers, that by bearing witness of the light he might prepare for the Lord the way of light and peace in the hearts of the faithful. For Francis, even as the morning star in the midst of a cloud, shining with the bright beams of his life and teaching, by his dazzling radiance led into the light them that sat in darkness and in the shadow of death, and, like unto the rainbow giving light in the bright clouds, set forth in himself the seal of the Lord's covenant. He preached the gospel of peace and salvation unto men, himself an Angel of the true peace, ordained of God to follow in the likeness of the Forerunner, that, preparing in the desert the way of sublimest Poverty, he might preach repentance by his ensample and words alike. For, firstly, he was endowed with the gifts of heavenly grace; next, enriched by the merits of triumphant virtue; filled with the spirit of prophecy and appointed unto angelic ministries; thereafter, wholly set on fire by the kindling of the Seraph, and, like the prophet, borne aloft in a chariot of fire; wherefore it is reasonably proven, and clearly apparent from the witness of his whole life, that he came in the spirit and power of Elias.

## How St. Francis created the Nativity scene, with a miraculous event in 1223

Vanessa Corcoran, Georgetown University



.....

**You were disappointed** when I said,  
*"Yes, my wife and I fight, but we fight fair."*  
 Did you think we shouldn't fight at all?  
 In an ideal world, I'd agree. In this one,  
 fighting apparently has its place. And in this place  
 it's the fairness I want to side with.

.....

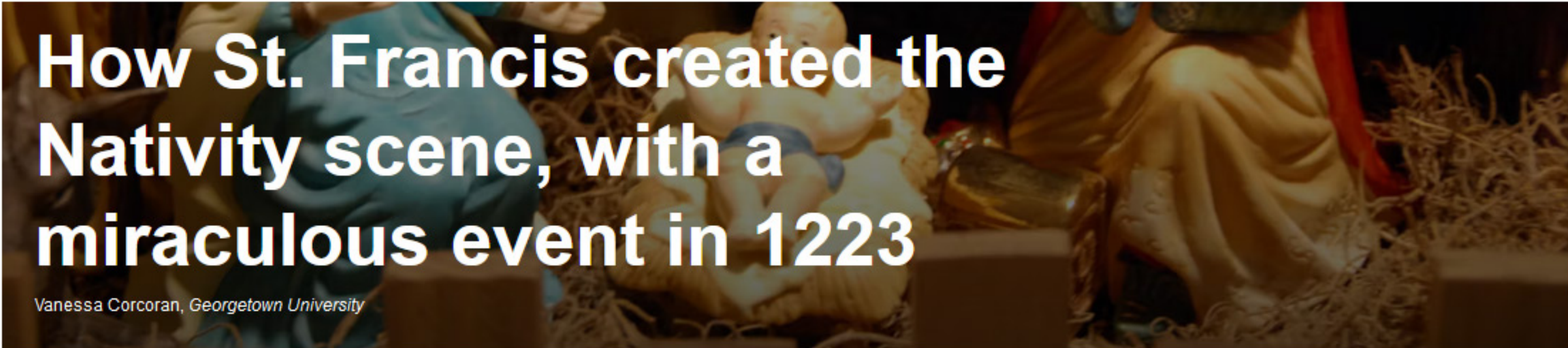
By definition **we can't see our own blind spots.**  
 Here is where we need a trusty mirror.  
 One that fundamentally reflects truth honestly,  
 compassionately. A friend.

{Often when we say 'literally,' we mean 'actually.' Do you see the distinction? When I say to you, "too much of what you're going to say is merely a metaphor for too much of what you're going to say is merely a metaphor for too much of what you're going to say is merely a metaphor," I'm saying too often you are talking about things as if they a 'like' something else, and saying too little about what it actually is. Metaphors can become a crutch for not simply fundamentally reflecting truth honestly, compassionately. No?}

.....

**Do you thirst with unwearied desire for the blessed hope?** Where is the practice of true mortification? Do you deaden your sinful nature, as a part of the process of sanctification? In its simplest form, mortification of the flesh can mean merely denying oneself certain pleasures, such as permanently or temporarily abstaining (i.e. fasting), from meat, alcoholic beverages, sexual relations, or an area of life that makes the person's spiritual life more difficult or burdensome. What is this spiritual life? Some say, "Spirituality means knowing that our lives have significance in a context beyond a mundane everyday existence at the level of biological needs that drive selfishness and aggression. It means knowing that we are a significant part of a purposeful unfolding of Life in our universe." But then what could such a knowing offer the day to day life of our times living in the flesh? In these times of abundance, how do we unwrap the gift to be simple that others may simply live?

.....



# How St. Francis created the Nativity scene, with a miraculous event in 1223

Vanessa Corcoran, Georgetown University





ECONOMY

# Minimum-wage workers in 22 states will be getting raises on Jan. 1

UPDATED DECEMBER 26, 2023 · 8:57 AM ET

By D. Parvaz



A person holds a sign at a rally to raise the federal minimum wage, on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., on May 4.

Jim Watson/AFP via Getty Images

Minimum-wage workers in 22 states are going to see more money in their paychecks in the new year. Those increases will affect an estimated 9.9 million workers, according to the Economic Policy Institute (EPI), which estimates that those bumped wages will add up to an additional \$6.95 billion in pay. In addition to those 22 states, 38 cities and counties will also increase their minimum wages above state minimums on Jan. 1, 2024. According to the Department of Labor, 20 states will maintain the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour. And according to EPI, of the 17.6 million workers earning less than \$15 an hour, nearly half live in those 20 states that continue to stick to the federal minimum wage — which has not changed since 2009. **The cost of living, however, has skyrocketed.** According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics consumer price index, a dollar in 2023 can buy roughly 70% of what it could buy in 2009. While the U.S. economy is proving to be robust in terms of retail sales, strong job numbers and a slowing rate of inflation, those who earn minimum wage have had a harder time paying rent, and buying essential household goods, including groceries. According to EPI data, nearly 58% of workers who will benefit from the coming wage increase are women. Nine percent are Black and nearly 38% are Hispanic. Over a quarter of those who will benefit from the pay increases are parents, which could make a significant difference in their standards of living, given that nearly 20% of the benefitting minimum wage workers currently have incomes below the poverty line. Most recently, Senate Democrats introduced the Raise the Wage Act of 2023 in July. If passed, it would gradually increase the federal minimum wage to \$17 an hour by 2028.



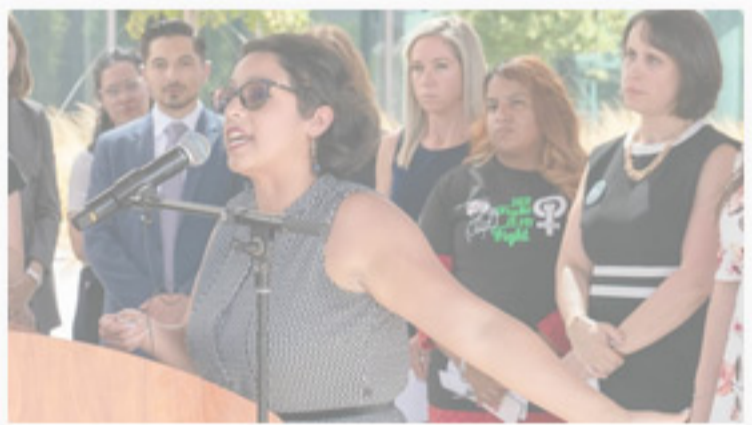


**BUSINESS**  
After a brutal stretch, a remarkable thing is happening: Cryptocurrencies are surging



**MIDDLE EAST**  
Biden orders strike on Iranian-aligned group after 3 U.S. troops injured in Iraq

**LIFE KIT**  
Need a New Year's resolution? Here are 50 ways to improve your life in 2024



**Ready, set, go! This is the year to take your goals off hold. Scroll through Life Kit's expert guides to find ways to make bold moves in 2024.**

Filter by category or surprise yourself!

- Show all
- Career
- Family
- Finances
- Fitness
- Getting organized
- Health
- Hobbies
- Home
- Mental health
- Relationships
- Surprise me!

- This year, I want to ...**
- Quit my job
  - Embrace my perfectionism
  - Get into meditation
  - Freeze my eggs
  - Get out of debt
  - Find a book to read
  - Make my home more climate friendly
  - Learn a heritage language
  - Write better to-do lists
  - Create a 'relationship contract'
  - Get married
  - Try to live to 100
  - Ask for a raise
  - Get healthier (without going to the gym)
  - Start a creative habit
  - Prep for emergencies
  - Start a new healthy habit
  - Sleep better
  - Get into birding
  - Be a morning person
  - Create friends at work
  - Make a budget
  - Relieve chronic pain
  - Mend my own clothes
  - Deal with burnout
  - Take care of my teeth
  - Start running
  - Have fun on a budget
  - Start new traditions
  - Be a better auntie or uncle
  - Drink less alcohol
  - Keep my New Year's resolutions
  - Take up weightlifting
  - Eat more mindfully
  - Spend more quality time with my kids
  - Start a side hustle
  - Save time on laundry
  - Stop stress spending
  - Decide whether I want kids
  - Be OK with being single
  - Change my life
  - Drink enough water
  - Explore my gender identity
  - Improve my focus
  - Shake my impostor syndrome
  - Clean out my clutter
  - Find a better bank
  - Get better at saying 'no'
  - Start exercising
  - Have more fun



## The imprisoned Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny resurfaces with darkly humorous comments



FILE - Russian opposition activist Alexei Navalny gestures while speaking to a crowd during a political protest in Moscow, Russia on July 20, 2019. Associates of imprisoned Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny say he has been located at a prison colony above the Arctic Circle nearly three weeks after contact with him was lost. Navalny, the most prominent foe of Russian President Vladimir Putin, is serving a 19-year sentence on charges of extremism. (AP Photo/Pavel Golovkin, File)

 3:24 AM PST, December 26, 2023

“I am your new Santa Claus,” Navalny said in a tweet, referring to his location above the Arctic Circle in the prison in the town of Kharp. Navalny, who is noted for sharply humorous comments, said he was in a good mood after being transported to the new prison, but suggested the northern winter darkness is discouraging: “I don’t say ‘Ho-ho-ho,’ but I do say ‘Oh-oh-oh’ when I look out of the window, where I can see night, then the evening, and then the night again.”

## Marjorie Taylor Greene targeted by failed Christmas swatting attempt



FILE - Rep. Marjorie Taylor-Greene, R-Ga., arrives on Capitol Hill, Oct. 24, 2023, in Washington. Greene was the target of a swatting attempt at her Georgia residence on Christmas morning, Monday, Dec. 25, the congresswoman and local police said, marking the latest instance of someone calling in a fake emergency to draw armed officers to her home. (AP Photo/Alex Brandon, File)



BY **HANNAH SCHOENBAUM**

Updated 3:09 AM PST, December 26, 2023

“I was just swatted. This is like the 8th time. On Christmas with my family here. My local police are the GREATEST and shouldn’t have to deal with this,” Greene wrote in a post on X, formerly Twitter. “We determined before our personnel could get to her location that there was no emergency and there was no reason to respond,” she said. “Her security detail had it all under control, and there actually was nothing going on.”



The Guardian

### Russia-Ukraine war live: Moscow confirms large warship hit in Crimean port

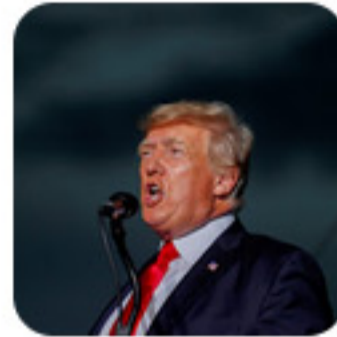
7 hours ago • Rachel Hall



The Daily Beast

### Trump's Christmas Message: 'ROT IN HELL'

6 hours ago • Matt Fuller



Realtor.com report

### San Diego Forecast to Be 4th Strongest 2024 Real Estate Market



### 'Jane Roe' is anonymous no more. The very public fight against abortion bans in 2023



51 minutes ago

The Guardian

### Putin 'has Trump's number' and still sees him 'as an asset', says Fiona Hill

6 days ago • Martin Pengelly



Elizabeth Weller speaks at a press conference in Austin, Texas on July 19. She's one of 20 women suing the state after being denied abortions despite serious pregnancy complications.

Suzanne Cordeiro/AFP via Getty Images





## Edie Falco reads a letter to white supremacists



Letters Live

258K subscribers

90,166 views Dec 21, 2023

In the wake of violence in Charlottesville in 2017, a Salt Lake City resident named Jonna Ramey wrote an open letter to white nationalists that was titled, "What Is Wrong With You?" Her letter was published in The Salt Lake Tribune and was soon read by millions.

At Letters Live at New York City's The Town Hall back in 2018, acting legend Edie Falco joined us to read it.

### Jonna Ramey By Utah Artists Directory on May 14, 2000

A chance opportunity to train with Zimbabwean master sculptors in Utah has led me on this two-decade odyssey of stone sculpting. My college training at Stanford was in filmmaking and art. In the 1970s, I developed feminist performance art and environmental sculpture with performances and installations across California. For decades, I made my living there as a film writer and director. I've been carving stone since the beginning of this century. I sculpt stone because it takes time. I have to give the stone and the sculpture within it the time and focus required to be revealed. My work is often abstract, sometimes figurative but rarely literal. Making sculpture is a way for me to examine thoughts, emotions, cultural concerns, myths and taboos. My sculptures have been shown in galleries and exhibitions throughout the western United States and are in numerous private collections.

### *"What is wrong with you?"*

Open letter to white supremacists, in the Salt Lake Tribune, by Jonna Ramey, August 20, 2017.

I am a 67-year-old American white woman. My parents enlisted in World War II to fight fascism. They both served; my mother was a nurse, my father navigated bombers. They lost friends in that bloody war so that all the world could be free of fascism. They did not fight so that some white people could claim supremacy or that Nazis could openly walk the streets of America.

White person to white supremacist person: What is wrong with you?

People of European heritage are doing just fine in the world. They run most of the world's institutions, hold much of the world's wealth, replicate as frequently as other humans. You're not in any danger here. The world is changing, that's true. Others want a piece of the pie. They work for it, strive for it and earn it. Technology (robotics) is having a greater effect on your job prospects than immigrants. Going forward, tackling corporate control and climate change will need all of our attention, ideas and energy. Put down your Tiki torches and trite flags and get involved in some real work.

By the way, the world won the war against Nazi fascism in the 1940s, just as America won the war against the Confederacy in the 1860s. Aligning with two lost causes just labels you as profound losers.

And finally, white person to white person: Like my parents before me, I will not stand idly by nor give up my rights or the rights of other Americans because you think you are better than some of us. It doesn't work that way. All Americans stand shoulder to shoulder against your hatred and bigotry.

Jonna Ramey  
Salt Lake City







*The statue of Sir Winston Churchill in Parliament Square, Westminster that was sprayed with the words "is a racist" during a Black Lives Matter protest in June 2020.*

In 1937, during the midst of the Arab revolt in Palestine, **Winston Churchill** spoke at length during Parliamentary debates on the British policy in Palestine. Churchill insisted that the British government not renege on its 1917 promise to create a Jewish national home in Palestine, opposing the idea of granting Palestine self-rule due to the necessary Arab majority that would rule in Britain's place. Churchill held the belief that an eventual Jewish state within Palestine would advance the prosperity of the country, asking rhetorically before the Peel Commission:

Why is there injustice done if people come in and make a livelihood for more and make the desert into palm groves and orange groves?

Churchill's first-hand experience with Arab culture, both as a soldier and an MP, had "not impressed him", in the words of historian Martin Gilbert; an Arab majority in Palestine, Churchill maintained, would have resulted in both cultural and material stagnation.[68] Malcom McDonald reported that Churchill stated that the Palestinian Arabs were "Barbaric hordes who ate little but camel dung".[69]

Churchill rejected the Arab wish to stop Jewish migration to Palestine:

**"I do not admit that the dog in the manger has the final right to the manger, though he may have lain there for a very long time I do not admit that right. I do not admit for instance that a great wrong has been done to the Red Indians of America or the black people of Australia. I do not admit that a wrong has been to those people by the fact that a stronger race, a higher-grade race or at any rate a more worldly-wise race, to put it that way, has come in and taken their place. I do not admit it. I do not think the Red Indians had any right to say, 'American continent belongs to us and we are not going to have any of these European settlers coming in here'. They had not the right, nor had they the power."**

At the same time Churchill believed that British policy should not result in what he called "harsh injustice" to the Arab majority, and that the Arab people would not be displaced by the Jewish influx. He further emphasised the British responsibility to ensure that Palestine's Jews would not discriminate economically against their Arab neighbours, stating that such discrimination would result in the future restriction of Jewish immigration to Palestine. Churchill summarised his views before the Peel Commission bluntly: "It is a question of which civilisation you prefer."





## The REAL REASON for the American Revolution with Noam Chomsky.



Sandalphon Arts

532 subscribers

23,366 views Jul 7, 2023

Noam Chomsky interviewed by Rocky Rodriguez Jr/Helen Foster for the documentary film 'Dog Years: Solidarity and the European Refugee Crisis' in 2016. This clip was not used in the film and deserves to be spread widely.

Sure, taxation without representation irked the colonial settlers, but two other factors far outweighed their drive to foment the the American Revolution against the British. First, the rebels were virtually all slave holders and **the 1772 Somerset** case ruled that slavery had no legal status in England. And secondly, **The Royal Proclamation of 1763** forbade all settlements west of a line drawn along the Appalachian Mountains, and the colonial settlers were hell bent on a Western ho! push from sea to shining sea. **Though the facts are there for all to see who care to see, as Chomsky points out, that's not what's taught in our schools to this day.**

In May 1772, Lord Mansfield's judgment in **the Somerset case** emancipated a slave in England and thus helped launch the movement to abolish slavery. The case ruled that slavery had no legal status in England as it had no common law or statutory law basis, and as such someone could not legally be a slave in England. However, many campaigners, including Granville Sharp, took the view that the ratio decidendi of the Somerset case meant that slavery was unsupported by law within England and that no ownership could be exercised on slaves entering English or Scottish soil. The Slavery Abolition Act 1833 (3 & 4 Will. 4. c. 73) was an Act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom which provided for the gradual abolition of slavery in most parts of the British Empire. >

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slavery\\_Abolition\\_Act\\_1833](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slavery_Abolition_Act_1833)

**The Royal Proclamation of 1763** was issued by King George III on 7 October 1763. It followed the Treaty of Paris (1763), which formally ended the Seven Years' War and transferred French territory in North America to Great Britain. The Proclamation forbade all settlements west of a line drawn along the Appalachian Mountains, which was delineated as an Indian Reserve. George Washington was given 20,000 acres (81 km<sup>2</sup>) of land in the Ohio region for his services in the French and Indian War. In 1770, Washington took the lead in securing the rights of him and his old soldiers. > [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal\\_Proclamation\\_of\\_1763](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_Proclamation_of_1763)



# 'I support Palestine': Miriam Margolyes backs Emma Watson over Palestinian soli...



<https://youtu.be/xANr1Alw8C4>

"I don't in my heart believe that that israel should have been brought into being because in order for it to be brought into being other people had their lives and their lands taken away from them and that isn't fair. I'm not a major brain, i'm thinking with my heart and that's what i'm like. I support palestine because it's right to do. So end of story."

Jan 14, 2022

M=E



I support Palestine  
because it's right to do so.

M=E  
MIDDLE EAST EYE

▶ ⏩ 🔊 8:14 / 8:27



⏸ ⏪ ⏩ ⚙️ 📺





It's been one horror and tragedy after the next since Hamas's killing and kidnapping attack of Israelis 10 weeks ago. On Friday, three hostages were accidentally killed by Israeli forces even though, we now know, they were waving a white flag. This as the army's pounding of Gaza continues unabated. As much as 90% of the population has been displaced and the death toll keeps rising.

About 100 Israeli hostages have been released – mostly women and children - but as many as 130 remain in captivity. An open wound in Israel, where we went this past week and spoke to one of the hostages who was freed after 54 days, 36-year-old Yarden Roman-Gat. She and her husband Alon Gat were abducted on October 7th at a kibbutz near the Gaza border.

Alon took us to the rubble that was his parents' home in Be'eri.

## Israeli hostage Yarden Roman-Gat shares details of her captivity in Gaza | 60 Minutes



21K



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1,564,796 views Dec 17, 2023 [#israelhamaswar](#) [#gaza](#) [#news](#)

Israeli mom Yarden Roman-Gat saved her child from Hamas captivity, but spent 54 days in Gaza after the Oct. 7 massacre. Her mother-in-law was killed in the attack and her sister-in-law is still a hostage.

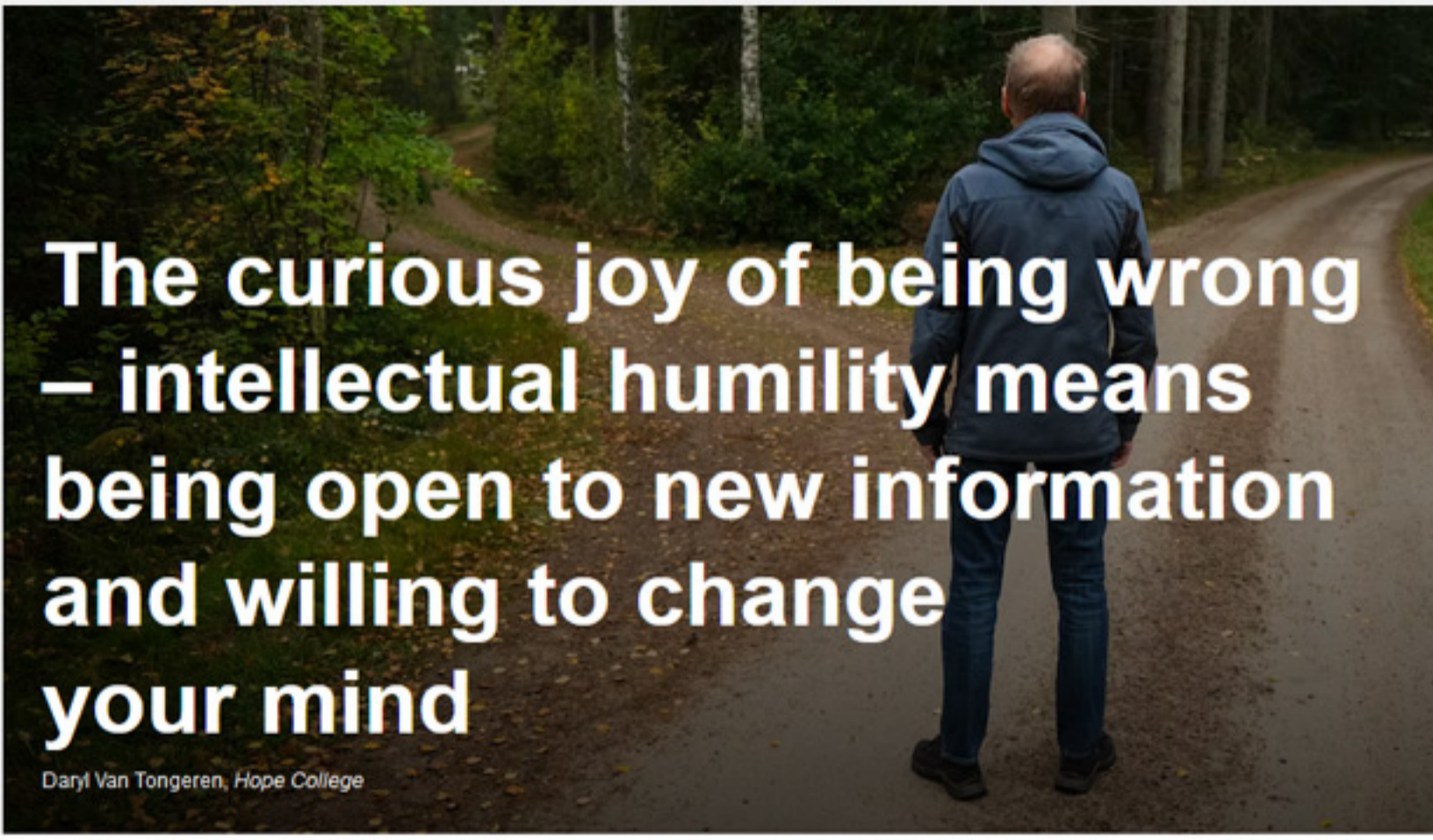




# THE CONVERSATION

Academic rigor, journalistic flair

Arts + Culture Economy Education Environment + Energy Ethics + Religion



## The curious joy of being wrong – intellectual humility means being open to new information and willing to change your mind

Daryl Van Tongeren, Hope College



### Daryl Van Tongeren

Associate Professor of Psychology, Hope College

Daryl R. Van Tongeren is an associate professor of psychology at Hope College. His research focuses on the social motivation for meaning and its relation to virtues and morality. Specifically, he adopt a social-cognitive approach to study meaning in life, religion and virtues, such as forgiveness and humility. His research has been funded by **generous grants from the John Templeton Foundation**.

**Hope College:** four-year liberal arts college, vibrant Christian faith, historically affiliated with the Reformed Church in America. Hope is ecumenically diverse and values open discussion of matters of faith and respect for the opinions of others.

Mark Twain apocryphally said, “I’m in favor of progress; it’s change I don’t like.” This quote pithily underscores the human tendency to desire growth while also harboring strong resistance to the hard work that comes with it. I can certainly resonate with this sentiment. I was raised in a conservative evangelical home. Like many who grew up in a similar environment, I learned a set of religious beliefs that framed how I understood myself and the world around me. I was taught that God is loving and powerful, and God’s faithful followers are protected. I was taught that the world is fair and that God is good. The world seemed simple and predictable – and most of all, safe. These beliefs were shattered when my brother unexpectedly passed away when I was 27 years old. His death at 34 with three young children shocked our family and community. In addition to reeling with grief, some of my deepest assumptions were challenged. Was God not good or not powerful? Why didn’t God save my brother, who was a kind and loving father and husband? And how unfair, uncaring and random is the universe? This deep loss started a period where I questioned all of my beliefs in light of the evidence of my own experiences. Over a considerable amount of time, and thanks to an exemplary therapist, I was able to revise my worldview in a way that felt authentic. I changed my mind, about a lot things. The process sure wasn’t pleasant. It took more sleepless nights than I care to recall, but I was able to revise some of my core beliefs. I didn’t realize it then, but this experience falls under what social science researchers call intellectual humility. And honestly, it is probably a large part of why, as a psychology professor, I am so interested in studying it. Intellectual humility has been gaining more attention, and it seems critically important for our cultural moment, when it’s more common to defend your position than change your mind.

There was one other thing that religion taught me that was slightly askew. I was told that too much learning could be ruinous; after all, you wouldn’t want to learn so much that you might lose your faith. But in my experience, what I learned through loss may have salvaged a version of my faith that I can genuinely endorse and feels authentic to my experiences. The sooner we can open our minds and stop resisting change, the sooner we’ll find the freedom offered by humility.




**The John Templeton Foundation** (Templeton Foundation) is a philanthropic organization that reflects the ideas of its founder, John Templeton, who became wealthy via a career as a contrarian investor\*, and wanted to support progress in religious and spiritual knowledge, especially at the intersection of religion and science. He also sought to fund research on methods to promote and develop moral character, intelligence, and creativity in people, and to promote free markets. In 2008, the foundation was awarded the National Humanities Medal. In 2016, Inside Philanthropy called it "the oddest—or most interesting—big foundation around." Templeton founded the organization in 1987 and headed it as chairman until his death in 2008. Templeton's son, John Templeton Jr., served as its president from its founding until his death in 2015, at which point Templeton Jr.'s daughter, *Heather Templeton Dill*, became president. The foundation administers the annual Templeton Prize for achievements in the field of spirituality, including those at the intersection of science and religion. It has an extensive grant-funding program (around \$150 million per year as of 2016) aimed at supporting research in physics, biology, psychology, and the social sciences as well as philosophy and theology. It also supports programs related to genetics, "exceptional cognitive talent and genius" and "individual freedom and free markets". The foundation has received both praise and criticism for its awards, regarding both the breadth of their coverage, and ideological perspectives asserted to be associated with them.

\***Contrarian Investing** is an investment strategy that is characterized by purchasing and selling in contrast to the prevailing sentiment of the time. A contrarian believes that certain crowd behavior among investors can lead to exploitable mispricings in securities markets. For example, widespread pessimism about a stock can drive a price so low that it overstates the company's risks, and understates its prospects for returning to profitability. Identifying and purchasing such distressed stocks, and selling them after the company recovers, can lead to above-average gains. Conversely, widespread optimism can result in unjustifiably high valuations that will eventually lead to drops, when those high expectations do not pan out. Avoiding (or short-selling) investments in over-hyped investments reduces the risk of such drops. These general principles can apply whether the investment in question is an individual stock, an industry sector, or an entire market or any other asset class.

*Philanthropy:* You oversee three entities founded by Sir John Templeton: the John Templeton Foundation, the Templeton Religion Trust, and the Templeton World Charity Foundation. What do they do?

**Heather Templeton Dill:** Our grandfather was known in his investing career for advocating diversification. He did the same thing with his philanthropy. He set up three different entities to diversify governance structure, location, size, and jurisdiction. But they all have the same mission. The central funding area for all three organizations is what we call Science and the Big Questions. We fund researchers who are using scientific methods to better understand things like generosity, forgiveness, or even love. Can we improve the human condition if we know how to cultivate some of these virtues? Our other funding areas include character development, individual freedom, and free markets. And we also administer the annual Templeton Prize, which honors someone who has made an exceptional contribution to spiritual life.

### John Templeton Foundation

|   |  |
|---|--|
|  | <b>JOHN TEMPLETON FOUNDATION</b>                   |
| <b>Formation</b>  | 1987; 36 years ago                                 |
| <b>Founder</b>  | <a href="#">John Templeton</a>                     |
| <b>Headquarters</b>   | <a href="#">West Conshohocken, Pennsylvania</a>    |
| <b>Fields</b>   | Scientific research · Religious studies            |
| <b>Official language</b>  | English  |
| <b>President</b>  | Heather Templeton Dill                             |
| <b>Revenue (2016)</b>   | \$30.2 million <sup>[1]</sup>                      |
| <b>Expenses (2016)</b>  | \$182.2 million <sup>[1]</sup>                     |
| <b>Endowment</b>  | \$3.9 billion <sup>[2]</sup>                       |
| <b>Website</b>  | <a href="http://templeton.org">templeton.org</a> ↗ |



**Heather Templeton Dill and Jennifer Templeton Simpson.** Granddaughters of the late Sir John Templeton, Dill is currently president of the foundation he established, while Simpson chairs the board of trustees.

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
|                        | <a href="#">Sir</a>   |
|                        | <b>John Templeton</b>   |
| <b>Born</b>            | John Marks Templeton<br>29 November 1912<br><a href="#">Winchester, Tennessee, U.S.</a>   |
| <b>Died</b>            | 8 July 2008 (aged 95)<br><a href="#">Nassau, Bahamas</a>  |
| <b>Citizenship</b>     | United Kingdom  |
| <b>Alma mater</b>      | <a href="#">Yale University (BA)</a><br><a href="#">Balliol College, Oxford (MA)</a>  |
| <b>Occupation(s)</b>   | Investor, fund manager, and philanthropist  |
| <b>Known for</b>       | Managing the <a href="#">Templeton Growth Fund</a><br>Endowing <a href="#">Templeton College, Oxford</a><br>Founding Templeton Religion Trust<br>Founding Templeton World Charity Foundation<br>Founding the <a href="#">John Templeton Foundation</a><br>Creating the <a href="#">Templeton Prize</a><br><a href="#">Humility theology</a> |
| <b>Board member of</b> | <a href="#">Princeton Theological Seminary</a>  |
| <b>Spouses</b>         | Judith Folk (m. 1937; died 1951)<br>Irene Reynolds Butler (m. 1958; died 1993)  |
| <b>Children</b>        | <a href="#">John Jr.</a> , <a href="#">Anne</a> , <a href="#">Christopher</a>   |
| <b>Awards</b>          | <a href="#">Rhodes Scholar</a><br><a href="#">Knight Bachelor</a>   |





https://theconversation.com/uk/newsletters/something-good-156

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Ali M. Bramson, *Purdue University*

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D. Brian Blank, *Mississippi State University* and Brandy Hadley, *Appalachian State University*

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Robert Crawford, *RMIT University*

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Peter Kimani, *Aga Khan University Graduate School of Media and Communications (GSMC)*

## Apple, Tesla and Nvidia were among 2023's 'magnificent seven' stocks – here's what to expect from them all in 2024

Karl Schmedders, *International Institute for Management Development (IMD)*

## Trump claims Constitution gives him immunity – here's why judges and the Supreme Court may not agree

Stefanie Lindquist, *Arizona State University*

## Five Christmas fashion trends we should bring back – and may be found in your wardrobe already

Bethan Bide, *University of Leeds*





https://theconversation.com/uk/newsletters/something-good-156



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At this time last year, many experts saw a downturn on the horizon. Will that long-predicted recession finally come to pass in 2024? The good news is, probably not. The U.S. economy is not in a recession and will likely continue growing. When you look at the economic pessimism revealed in polls, 'vibecession', and on social media, a fascinating paradox emerges – despite the collective bad vibes, the majority of Americans say their personal economic situations are basically fine. Most Americans have not seen their income rise as fast as inflation since 2021. If inflation rises faster than wages in 2024, the vibes may suffer. While understanding that consumer sentiment is complex, we think it makes more sense to focus on what people do, not what they say. And people are behaving in a way that's consistent with a strong economy due to rising real income, not to mention a robust labor market. We should remember that almost everyone was wrong last year – and if there's one prediction we can make with confidence, it's that at least some of today's forecasts will look pretty silly in retrospect.

The **Boxing Day** sales are an essential part of Australia's festive season. Every year on December 26 news outlets invariably feature stories about excited shoppers queuing up at the major department stores hoping to score bargains and heavily discounted products. While such reports portray the day's sales as a time-honoured tradition, they are only a recent ritual. The origins of Boxing Day date back to the Middle Ages, when English masters gave their servants a day off after the Christmas celebrations. The servants would be given a box containing leftover food and treats to share with their families. In 1871 the day was formally recognised as a public holiday in the United Kingdom. Australian colonies later followed suit.

**Will Black Friday overtake Boxing Day?**

So, are Boxing Day sales doomed to become another lost tradition? Large discounts and the convenience of shopping online have certainly helped Black Friday's rapid growth. However, its real advantage is timing. Shoppers not only use these sales for themselves, they can do their Christmas shopping at the same time. Such a combination means Black Friday has quickly become a fixture in Australian retailing. Of course, Boxing Day sales are not dead. Wherever there are bargains to be had, there will always be shoppers ready to buy. Rather than competing with Black Friday, it seems that the challenge for Australian retailers is to reinvent the Boxing Day sales tradition.

Robert Crawford, RMIT University

**Maybe it's time to bring back the door buster bargains.**

**East African literature** continues to grow and reshape itself in exciting new ways – and 2023 was no exception. The world really did take notice of the region when Tanzanian-British author Abdulrazak Gurnah won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2021. Interest in Gurnah's work continued last year when he made a homecoming to east Africa. But it is in Tanzania that Gurnah made a proper homecoming in 2023 – through the first ever Kiswahili translation of Paradise, now out as Peponi.

So, the **magnificent seven** have all survived to ride out of town at the end of 2023, but it's as clear as a tumbleweed rolling down a deserted main street that not all of them are in for a leisurely horseback ride through 2024. Saddle up, partners!

Institute for Management Development (IMD)

**Trump claims Constitution gives him immunity – here's why judges and the Supreme Court may not agree**

Stefanie Lindquist, Arizona State University

If you are stuck for inspiration about how to dress better and more meaningfully this holiday season, here are some of **the best festive trends from the history of fashion** that are ripe for revival and can be easily found in your wardrobe. 1. The silk Christmas scarf. 2. Dressing all in green. 3. Dazzle fancy dress costumes. 4. Wooden shoes. 5. Party pyjamas.

Bethan Bide, University of Leeds





https://www.npr.org/2023/12/27/1221521153/2023-50-wonderful-things

## Pop Culture Happy Hour

# The year in review: 50 wonderful things from 2023

DECEMBER 27, 2023 · 5:00 AM ET

HEARD ON MORNING EDITION



Linda Holmes

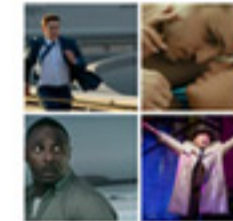


6-Minute Listen



Clockwise from left: Cocaine Bear, Luke Macfarlane in *Platonic*, Danielle Brooks and Fantasia Barrino in *The Color Purple*, Bryce Harper of the Philadelphia Phillies, the cover of the book *Starter Villain*, Jessica Williams in *Shrinking*.

I've been making annual lists of 50 Wonderful Pop Culture Things since 2010. They include things you've probably heard of and things you might not have, things that are meaningful and things that are hilarious, things that matter and things that don't at all. In this year in which TV and film were both interrupted for months as a result of labor disputes, there was plenty to admire even as production ground to a halt.



CULTURE

The best movies and TV of 2023, picked for you by NPR critics

The usual caveats apply: These are not objectively the best things; they are just wonderful things. There were far more than 50 wonderful things to admire this year, and there is far (far) more that I never saw or read or heard at all. But it never hurts to look back on the year and realize that in fact, delight was upon you over and over.



POLITICS

## Gen X and President Biden: Reality bites

DECEMBER 27, 2023 · 5:29 AM ET



Susan Davis



Generation X voters were raised on Rock the Vote and political engagement in the Clinton years, but they are increasingly conservative and opposed to President Biden.

Joyce Naltchayan/AFP via Getty Images

Tara Schoettle's disapproval of President Biden can be traced back to her childhood. "I have a distinct memory of when Carter was in office and we had to wait in line for gas," Schoettle told NPR, in reference to the gas shortages that impacted the U.S. under Democratic President Jimmy Carter. "I feel the liberals just have always done this sort of thing and they love to word things as socially responsible and things like that, but they're fiscally very irresponsible." At 54, Schoettle is squarely a member of Generation X — those born between roughly 1965 and 1980. That political memory alone helps explain why they tilt more conservative than members of other generations. Schoettle has voted for a Democrat for president just once: Barack Obama in 2008. **"Gen X is the most Republican of the generations," said Jean Twenge, a psychology professor at San Diego State University and author of the book Generations, which examines what drives generational differences.**

Gen X is also smaller in population than other generations and has had lower political and voter participation, comparatively. "They just have not voted at the same rates as the boomers before them and the millennials after them. And there's also a significant delay in Gen Xers getting elected to political office," said Twenge. This is true for Danny Dotson, 55, an independent who lives near San Antonio. "I have never involved myself in politics for a majority of my life until really, I guess, after Trump became president," he told NPR. He said he has voted sporadically in national elections, skipping out entirely in 2016 and voting for a third-party candidate in 2020. As for 2024? "My first feeling is overwhelming disgust at our country for allowing these two people to run again," he said. Dotson doesn't know whom he will vote for next year, but he said he will absolutely cast a ballot. "I'm 100 percent certain I will not vote for either one of those people," he said. Call it the "Oh, well, whatever, nevermind" vote.

The United States is currently home to six generations of people:

- the Silents, born 1925–1945
- Baby Boomers, born 1946–1964
- Gen X, born 1965–1979
- Millennials, born 1980–1994
- Gen Z, born 1995–2012
- and the still-to-be-named cohorts born after 2012.

They have had vastly different life experiences and thus, one assumes, they must have vastly diverging beliefs and behaviors. But what are those differences, what causes them, and how deep do they actually run?

The Real Differences Between  
Gen Z, Millennials, Gen X,  
Boomers, and Silents—  
and What They Mean  
for America's Future

generations

JEAN M. TWENGE, PhD

author of *iGen*

Professor of psychology and "reigning expert on generational change" (Lisa Wade, PhD, author of *American Hookup*), **Jean Twenge** does a deep dive into a treasure trove of long-running, government-funded surveys and databases to answer these questions. Are we truly defined by major historical events, such as the Great Depression for the Silents and September 11 for Millennials? Or, as Twenge argues, is it the rapid evolution of technology that differentiates the generations? With her clear-eyed and insightful voice, Twenge explores what the Silents and Boomers want out of the rest of their lives; how Gen X-ers are facing middle age; the ideals of Millennials as parents and in the workplace; and how Gen Z has been changed by COVID, among other fascinating topics. Surprising, engaging, and informative, *Generations* will forever change the way you view your parents, peers, coworkers, and children, no matter which generation you call your own.





Center for Reproductive Rights leaders leading the lawsuit aim to hold the state of Texas accountable for the consequences of their multiple abortion bans on March 7, 2023.

Patricia Lim/KUT





Tanya Talamante pauses in the icy water at Oakledge Park on Jan. 20, 2023, in Burlington, Vt. This is part of Vermont Public's first-person stories on how Latinos spending time outdoors can inspire deeper connections with others, their heritage and nature itself. Full story [here](#).

*Raquel C. Zaldívar/New England News Collaborative*





Protesters demanding a cease-fire in Gaza block the westbound lanes of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge on Nov. 16, 2023. Full story [here](#).

Beth LaBerge/KQED





People rally outside the Powell Street Station in downtown San Francisco to call for a cease-fire in Gaza as President Biden arrives for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation conference on Nov. 14, 2023. Full story [here](#).

Juliana Yamada/KQED





A large crowd of people gathered in front of the White House for morning prayers on Nov. 13, 2023, the day of the March for Israel. Full story [here](#).

Tyrone Turner/DCist/WAMU





Arturo, from Venezuela, is one of the many migrants who arrived in Denver from the southern border. He stays in a tent on Zuni Street, where migrants who had stayed in a city-contracted motel relocated after they had to leave the facility in November. Full story [here](#).

Kevin J. Beaty/Denverite





**This guy I knew back in the 1970s, who'd come up from central America, washed dishes at the Domino's Pizza in Monterey, California I delivered for. He was first one in, last one out every day. At night he crashed in a tiny dilapidated one room shack with his buddies, who all worked in the fields. I asked him why he too didn't work alongside them as a farm hand. He had little English, but his reply translated to something like, "If you work in a kitchen, you never go hungry." The unique benefits of working in food service are especially notable for migrants in a foreign land, who may or may not be legal, and are more susceptible to being exploited—under paid, over worked in substandard conditions. It was in capturing the human experience of migrant farm workers that made *The Grapes of Wrath* controversial. The political frenzy went so far that First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, upon reading the book, called for congressional hearings that resulted in reform to labor laws governing migrant camps. The author of *Grapes of Wrath*, John Steinbeck was himself a farm hand as a young man. He learned about farm workers and their problems when he worked as a laborer and straw boss in the fields for the Spreckels Sugar Company, which owned a series of ranches up and down the Salinas Valley near Monterey.**

Arturo, from Venezuela, is one of the many migrants who arrived in Denver from the southern border. He stays in a tent on Zuni Street, where migrants who had stayed in a city-contracted motel relocated after they had to leave the facility in November. Full story [here](#).

Kevin J. Beaty/Denverite





Maya Murchison poses for a photo at Eastlake High School in Chula Vista, Calif., on Oct. 23, 2023. Murchison, a high school senior, said the Supreme Court's affirmative action ruling affected her college application process. Full story [here](#).

Adriana Heldiz/CalMatters





At the "One Lewiston" Community Vigil, attendees sign "I love you" after four members of Maine's deaf community were killed in a mass shooting in Lewiston, Maine, on Oct. 29, 2023. Full story [here](#).

Raquel C. Zaldívar/New England News Collaborative





For the first Literary Costume Ball at the Library of Congress, around 2,000 people dressed as their favorite characters and packed the Thomas Jefferson Building for the Sept. 14, 2023, event, which featured caricature artists, a DJ and a costume contest. [Full story here.](#)

Tyrone Turner/DCist/WAMU





Megan Rapinoe walks onto the field to play her final NWSL regular-season home game against the Washington Spirit on Oct. 6, 2023, at Seattle's Lumen Field. Full story [here](#).

Megan Farmer/KUOW





Michael Jones and others strike at the Kaiser Permanente Oakland Medical Center in Oakland, Calif., on Oct. 4, 2023. Full story [here](#).

Martin do Nascimento/KQED





Jatun Mashikiuna performs during a festival in downtown Hartford, Conn., where officials and the public joined members of the Ecuadorian community to raise their flag at the Capitol in observance of Ecuador's Independence Day on Aug. 10, 2023. Full story [here](#).

Ayannah Brown/Connecticut Public





Members of the Screen Actors Guild and Writers Guild of America picket the Amazon Studios in Culver City, Calif., on June 17, 2023. Full story [here](#).

Julie A Hotz for CalMatters





East Palestine Mayor Trent Conaway talks to reporters during a contentious community meeting on Feb. 15, 2023, about the fiery, toxic train derailment that occurred in the Ohio community earlier that month. Full story [here](#).

Ryan Loew/IPM





John Wade from Cleveland, Ohio, has a boost of confidence right before the start signal in the National Veterans Wheelchair Games at the Portland International Raceway on July 5, 2023. Full story [here](#).

Caden Perry/OPB





Victor Ramirez and Gina Bennett, both of whom work at the Allen Premium Outlets in Allen, Texas, hug on May 8, 2023, at a memorial for the eight victims of a mass shooting. Full story [here](#).

Yfat Yossifor/KERA





Pallbearers carry the casket of Mel King out the doors of Boston's Union United Methodist Church after King's funeral service on April 11, 2023. Perhaps the city's most prominent modern Black organizer and politician, King died on March 28, at the age of 94. Full story [here](#).

Jesse Costa/WBUR





Runners cross the starting line of the 127th Boston Marathon on April 17, 2023. Full story [here](#).

Robin Lubbock/WBUR





These images from across the country represent some of the year's most remarkable stories:



Maura Healey waits to be escorted into the Massachusetts House of Representatives' chamber on Jan. 5, 2023, to be sworn in as the state's next governor. Full story [here](#).

Jesse Costa/WBUR





Surrounded by security, Aimee Kotek Wilson (left), and her wife, Gov. Tina Kotek, prepare to enter the inaugural proceedings at the Oregon State Capitol in Salem, Ore., on Jan. 9, 2022. Full story [here](#).

Kristyna Wentz-Graff/OPB





Dulce De Leche performs on Columbus Avenue during the event San Francisco is a Drag, a series of outdoor performances on Dec. 2, 2023. Full story [here](#).

Beth LaBerge/KQED





The Mitotiliztli Yaoyollohtli Aztec dance company lines up for a march for Santos Rodriguez, a 12-year-old shot by a Dallas police officer in 1973, during a 50th anniversary commemoration on July 23, 2023, in downtown Dallas. Full story [here](#).

Yfat Yossifor/KERA





Kieyira Flintroy poses for a photo while waiting in line to see Beyoncé on her Seattle stop of the Renaissance World Tour on Sept. 14, 2023, at Seattle's Lumen Field. Full story [here](#).

Megan Farmer/KUOW





Sophia Lewis, 13, of Maryland Heights, Mo., helps hoist a giant rainbow flag down Market Street on June 25, 2023, during the St. Louis PrideFest Parade in downtown St. Louis.

Brian Munoz/St. Louis Public Radio





An estimate of over 10,000 protestors rallying during the All Out For Palestine Rally held at the Texas State Capitol in Austin, Sunday, Nov. 12, 2023 in protest of the ongoing Israel-Hamas war.

Patricia Lim/KUT





Wood Street resident Mayana Sparks cries while watching the city of Oakland begin to evict an encampment on April 10, 2023. Full story [here](#).

Beth LaBerge/KQED





The Wahweap Marina, squeezed by the dropping and encroaching shoreline of Lake Powell on the Colorado River behind the Glen Canyon Dam outside Page, Ariz., on Feb. 20, 2023. The bathtub ring marking the once-high level of the lake is visible on the red rock formations in the distance. Full story [here](#).

Hart Van Denburg/CPR News





Hollis Moore, a 30-year-old teacher in the Kirkwood School District in Kirkwood, Mo., hugs their student Maggie McCoy, 10, on April 17, 2023, before a school board meeting outside the North Kirkwood Middle School. Moore alleges they have been discriminated against by district officials due to their gender identity. Full story [here](#).

Brian Munoz/St. Louis Public Radio



## Comedian Tom Smothers, One-Half Of The Smothers Brothers, Dies At 86

He was the co-host of one of the most socially conscious and groundbreaking television shows in the history of the medium.



1 of 2 | FILE - Tom Smothers does yo-yo tricks during arrivals at CBS's 75th anniversary celebration Sunday, Nov. 2, 2003, in New York. Tom Smothers, half of the Smother Brothers and the co-host of one of the most socially conscious and groundbreaking television shows in the history of the medium, has died, Tuesday, Dec. 26, 2023 at 86. (AP Photo/Louis Lanzano, File)

BY FRAZIER MOORE AND ANDREW DALTON

Updated 12:15 PM PST, December 27, 2023

**Tom Smothers, half of the Smothers Brothers and the co-host of one of the most socially conscious and groundbreaking television shows in the history of the medium, has died at 86.** The National Comedy Center, on behalf of his family, said in a statement Wednesday that Smothers died Tuesday at home in Santa Rosa, California, following a cancer battle. "I'm just devastated," his brother and the duo's other half, Dick Smothers, told The Associated Press in an interview Wednesday. "Every breath I've taken, my brother's been around." When "The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour" debuted on CBS in the fall of 1967 it was an immediate hit, to the surprise of many who had assumed the network's expectations were so low it positioned their show opposite the top-rated "Bonanza." But the Smothers Brothers would prove a turning point in television history, with its sharp eye for pop culture trends and young rock stars such as the Who and Buffalo Springfield, and its daring sketches — ridiculing the Establishment, railing against the Vietnam War and portraying members of the era's hippie counterculture as gentle, fun-loving spirits — found an immediate audience with young baby boomers. "We were moderate. We were never out there," Dick Smothers said. "But we were the first people through that door. It just sort of crept in as the '60s crept in. We were part of that generation." The show reached No. 16 in the ratings in its first season. It also drew the ire of network censors. After years of battling with the brothers over the show's creative content, the network abruptly canceled the program in 1970, accusing the siblings of failing to submit an episode in time for the censors to review. Nearly 40 years later, when Smothers was awarded an honorary Emmy for his work on the show, he jokingly thanked the writers he said had gotten him fired. He also showed that the years had not dulled his outspokenness. "It's hard for me to stay silent when I keep hearing that peace is only attainable through war," Smothers said at the 2008 Emmy Awards as his brother sat in the audience, beaming. He dedicated his award to those "who feel compelled to speak out and are not afraid to speak to power and won't shut up."

During the three years the show was on television, the brothers constantly battled with CBS censors and occasionally outraged viewers as well, particularly when Smothers joked that Easter "is when Jesus comes out of his tomb and if he sees his shadow, he goes back in and we get six more weeks of winter." At Christmas, when other hosts were sending best wishes to soldiers fighting overseas, Smothers offered his to draft dodgers who had moved to Canada. In still another episode, the brothers returned blacklisted folk singer Pete Seeger to television for the first time in years. He performed his song "Waist Deep in the Big Muddy," widely viewed as ridiculing President Lyndon Johnson. When CBS refused to air the segment, the brothers brought Seeger back for another episode and he sang it again. This time, it made the air. After the show was canceled, the brothers sued CBS for \$31 million and were awarded \$775,000. Their battles with the network were chronicled in the 2002 documentary *"Smothered: The Censorship Struggles of the Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour."*

Thomas Bolyn Smothers III was born Feb. 2, 1937, on Governors Island, New York, where his father, an Army major, was stationed. His brother was born two years later. In 1940 their father was transferred to the Philippines, and his wife, two sons and their sister, Sherry, accompanied him. When the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, the family was sent home and Maj. Smothers remained. He was captured by the Japanese during the war and died in captivity. The family eventually moved to the Los Angeles suburb of Redondo Beach, where Smothers helped his mother take care of his brother and sister while she worked. "Tommy was the greatest older brother. He took care of me," Dick Smothers said. "His maturity was amazing. Sometimes you lose part of your childhood."

The brothers had seemed unlikely to make television history. They had spent several years on the nightclub and college circuits and doing TV guest appearances, honing an offbeat comedy routine that mixed folk music with a healthy dose of sibling rivalry. They would come on stage, Tom with a guitar in hand and Dick toting an upright bass. They would quickly break into a traditional folk song — perhaps "John Henry" or "Pretoria." After playing several bars, Tom, positioned as the dumb one despite being older, would mess up, then quickly claim he had meant to do that. As Dick, the serious, short-tempered one, berated him for failing to acknowledge his error, he would scream in exasperation, "Mom always liked you best!" "It was the childlike enthusiasm through ignorance, and me, the teacher, correcting him — sometimes I'd correct him even if I was wrong," Dick Smothers said. "I was the perfect straight man for my brother. I was the only straight man for my brother." They continued that shtick on their show but also surrounded themselves with a talented cast of newcomers, both writers and performers. Future actor-filmmaker Rob Reiner was among those on the crack writing crew the brothers assembled. "Tommy was funny, smart, and a fighter," Reiner said on social media Wednesday. "He created a ground breaking show that celebrated all that was good about American Democracy." Other writers included musician Mason Williams and comedian Steve Martin, who presented Smothers with the lifetime Emmy. Regular musical guests included John Hartford, Glen Campbell and Jennifer Warnes. The brothers had begun their own act when Tom, then a student at San Jose State University, formed a music group called the Casual Quintet and encouraged his younger brother to learn the bass and join. The brothers continued on as a duo after the other musicians dropped out, but began interspersing comedy with their limited folk music repertoire. "We never wrote anything, we just made it up, and tried to remember what we made up," Dick Smothers said. "I just responded to Tom, if he said something that wasn't in the bit, I wouldn't stick to the script, I would listen." The brothers' big break came in 1959 when they appeared at San Francisco's Purple Onion, then a hot spot for new talent. Booked for two weeks, they stayed a record 36. They had a similar run at New York's Blue Angel. But to their disappointment, they couldn't get on "The Tonight Show," then hosted by Jack Paar. "Paar kept telling our agent he didn't like folk singers — except for Burl Ives," Smothers told the AP in 1964. "But one night he had a cancellation, and we went on. Everything worked right that night." Dick Smothers said Wednesday.



## A look back at some of the top political stories of 2023

December 28, 2023 By Domenico Montanaro and Heidi Glenn

2023 was filled with lots of standout political moments and events. Here's a look back at some of them, from Capitol Hill drama and another consequential Supreme Court decision to the Republican primary and the political toll of wars abroad.



President Joe Biden walks with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy at St. Michael's Golden-Domed Cathedral on a surprise visit on Feb. 20.

The GOP primary begins: GOP presidential candidates include former N.J. Gov. Chris Christie, former Vice President Mike Pence, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, Vivek Ramaswamy, former U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley. With his quasi-incumbent status, former President Donald Trump maintains a big lead. Trump becomes first former president to face criminal charges. His booking photo provided by the Fulton County Sheriff's Office shows former President Donald Trump on Aug. 24 goes viral among MAGAs. Trump is facing 91 federal and state criminal counts, including conspiracy to defraud the United States and engaging in a criminal enterprise by attempting to overturn the 2020 election, as well as willful retention of national defense information because of classified documents he didn't give back. Rep. Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., after the 14th vote becomes speaker in the House. McCarthy lasted just nine months on the job and became the first House speaker removed from the job in U.S. history. A new speaker was sworn in – Rep. Mike Johnson of Louisiana – after multiple other possibilities were rejected by the hard right of the party. Rep. George Santos, R-N.Y., was expelled from the House accused of committing a wide array of crimes. Meanwhile, Democratic Sen. Bob Menendez of New Jersey is also facing charges of acting as a foreign agent for Egypt, and some in his own party have called for him to step aside.

Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu hugs President Biden upon his arrival at Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion airport on Oct. 18, amid the ongoing battles between Israel and Hamas.



Despite his mediocre poll standings and many Americans believing he's too old to be president, President Biden announces his bid to "finish the job" with reelection in 2024 on April 25. **The age of aging lawmakers:** Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., froze and stopped talking at the microphones during a news conference after a lunch meeting with Senate Republicans in July. Biden has faced persistent questions about his age, but there are also lots of octogenarians serving in Congress. It highlighted the advanced age of many in Congress and had many asking, how old is too old to serve in public office? **The loss of prominent women in politics:** This year saw the deaths of former first lady Rosalynn Carter, former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and former Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif. O'Connor was the first woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court and faced steep obstacles in getting there. Feinstein was California's first female senator, authored the 1994 assault weapons ban and, as the first woman to chair the Senate Intelligence Committee, defied two presidents when she forced the release of her committee's investigation into torture used against terror suspects. **Supreme Court guts affirmative action.** For the second year in a row, the conservative-leaning Supreme Court issued a controversial and consequential ruling. In 2022, it was the Dobbs decision that overturned Roe v. Wade and stripped away the guaranteed right to an abortion. That continued to reverberate in politics, helping Democrats win off-year elections in Virginia, Kentucky and Ohio. In 2023, it was an affirmative action ruling that effectively ended race-conscious admission programs at colleges and universities. The decision, which reversed decades of precedent, means colleges and universities can no longer consider race as one of many factors in admissions.



## A look back at some of the top political stories of 2023

December 28, 2023 By Domenico Montanaro and Heidi Glenn

### Supreme Court guts affirmative action



Proponents of affirmative action hold signs during a protest at Harvard University on July 1. *Joseph Prezioso/AFP via Getty Images*

For the second year in a row, the conservative-leaning Supreme Court issued a controversial and consequential ruling. In 2023, it was an affirmative action ruling that effectively ended race-conscious admission programs at colleges and universities. The decision, which reversed decades of precedent, means colleges and universities can no longer consider race as one of many factors in admissions.

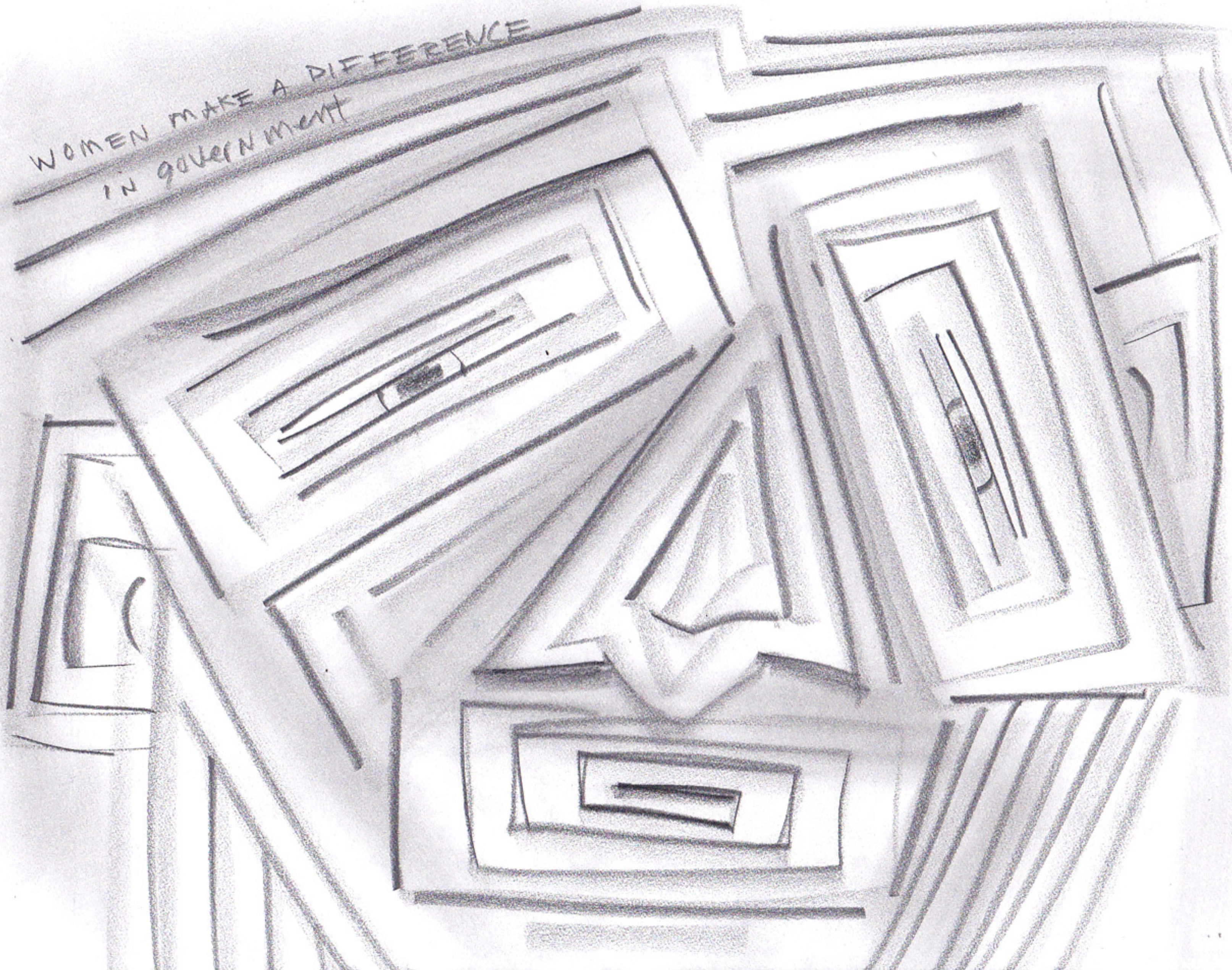
**The loss of prominent women in politics:** This year saw the deaths of former first lady Rosalynn Carter, former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and former Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif. O'Connor was the first woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court and faced steep obstacles in getting there. Feinstein was California's first female senator, authored the 1994 assault weapons ban and, as the first woman to chair the Senate Intelligence Committee, defied two presidents when she forced the release of her committee's investigation into torture used against terror suspects.

*With her husband by her side and Dianne Feinstein's daughter Katherine, former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi lays across Feinstein's casket at City Hall on Oct. 4 in San Francisco. Gina Ferazzi/Los Angeles Times via Getty Images*





WOMEN MAKE A DIFFERENCE  
IN GOVERNMENT







THE TIMES OF ISRAEL

### 2 Australians, including suspected Hezbollah fighter, killed in IDF strike in Lebanon

6 hours ago

**The New York Times**  
Israel-Hamas War: Live Updates  
2 hours ago • Nadav Gavrielov, Thomas Fuller & Jo...

**CBS News**  
Israel warns about Lebanon border hostilities: "The hourglass for a political settlement is running out"  
18 minutes ago • Haley Ott

**Fox News**  
Northern Israeli town, city attacked by Hezbollah rockets from Lebanon | Live Updates from Fox News Digital  
3 hours ago • Elizabeth Pritchett & Andrea Vacchia...

Full Coverage

NEWS

### Nikki Haley doesn't cite slavery as cause of the Civil War after question at campaign stop

4 hours ago • Abby Cruz, Kelsey Walsh & Nicholas Kerr



Full Coverage

FINANCIAL TIMES

### Israel's Benny Gantz threatens to ramp up military action against Hizbollah

5 hours ago • Polina Ivanova



Full Coverage



REUTERS/Ammar Awad

### Women wave American and Israeli flags from a car window as they join a convoy to the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem to show support for U.S. President Donald Trump, ahead of the upcoming U.S. election, in Jerusalem October 27, 2020.

"I'm living the American dream in Israel," Judith Segaloff told Business Insider. Segaloff is a US-born settler living in the West Bank, a territory that Israel occupied after the Six-Day War in 1967. She was born into a Jewish family in New Jersey. She was brought up with Zionist values but did not visit Israel until she was in her 40s. She said she finally felt she'd come home when she stepped off the plane on her first trip to Israel. "This is where my protoplasm belongs," she said. "It's where I come from."

**'Trump got us':** In an op-ed for *The New York Times* decrying "Israeli terrorists, born in the USA," Hirschhorn noted that in the aftermath of the Hebron massacre former Israeli President Chaim Herzog called the US "a breeding ground" for Jewish terror. Accusations of settler violence are met with counterclaims of frequent attacks by Palestinians on Jews living beyond the Green Line (the pre-1967 Israeli border), including rocks thrown regularly at cars, ramming attacks, and drive-by shootings. Hirschhorn said the West Bank settlements were "often considered to be a right-wing project" and recalled how the Trump campaign set up an ad hoc office in Karnei Shomron before the 2016 election.

President Donald Trump recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital and ordered the US Embassy to relocate there, in a move that validated American Israelis in the region. "Trump got us," Segaloff told BI's Joshua Zitser last year. "He understood us in a way that no other president ever did. He understands the Middle East mentality, the trading mentality, the negotiating mentality." The settlers reject the idea that land can be traded for peace with the Palestinians. "This is not an occupation," Kahn said. "And what we're up against is not something that can be solved by territorial compromise." "I'll stay here no matter what," Segaloff said. "Pushing for a two-state solution is ridiculous because we can't live with people who want us dead."

BUSINESS INSIDER

### The Jewish settlers 'living the American dream' in the West Bank

2 hours ago • Rebecca Rommen





# A behavioral scientist's advice for changing your life

UPDATED JANUARY 14, 2022 · 2:22 PM ET ⓘ

By Elise Hu, Clare Lombardo



Photo Illustration by Becky Harlan/NPR

**Want to change your life? The field of behavioral science has some answers.**

Author and researcher Katy Milkman of the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School is out with a new book, *How to Change*, that's packed with research-backed paths to personal growth. Science has tried-and-tested methods to help us stop procrastinating, save more money and make healthier choices. She says that if we apply these lessons more widely, they have life-lengthening and even lifesaving potential. A decade ago, Milkman saw a statistic she calls "completely mind-boggling": 40% of premature deaths are due to behaviors that can be changed. That's one reason she wanted to share her findings widely, she says. Milkman shared some of the most actionable lessons from her research with Life Kit. This knowledge is for anyone who has a goal and wants to reach it — or the managers and mentors helping employees get there.

**"Too much rigidity is the enemy of a good habit":** If you're trying to develop a habit like working out regularly or writing each day, letting yourself have a little leeway is the way to make that habit stick. In one of Milkman's studies, she and her colleagues tried to motivate Google employees to work out regularly at the company gym and build a lasting workout habit. [...] The results? Members of the group that worked out on a strict schedule simply didn't go to the gym if they missed that window, while the more flexible group formed a more lasting workout habit. The lesson here? A key component of habit is having some flexibility.

**One counterintuitive strategy to beat procrastination:** Procrastination is such a beastly barrier to behavior change because of something that economists call "present bias" — we value the rewards we can get in this instant above the rewards we'll achieve in the long run. How do we solve it? If you know when you might procrastinate, impose a fine on your future self and commit to paying if you don't follow through with your goals. [What my mother called "bribery and corruption."] There's an app for that.

**Remember the power of fresh starts:** We humans tend to organize time around events or exiting one chapter in life and entering another. "You have ... this extra motivation to pursue change because you feel like, 'That was the old me. This is the new me, and the new me has a clean slate and can do it.' So it's really freeing," Milkman says. Recognizing and highlighting opportunities to create fresh starts, even if they're small, like the start of a new week, can change behavior. Research from Milkman and her colleagues shows that just flagging an upcoming birthday can encourage people to start saving more for retirement.

**Making accountability public can be a powerful motivator — for good!** We know the negative emotions associated with feeling like you're being watched by other people. But Milkman writes about ways that public accountability can be used to help us behave more generously. Just like with procrastination, you can use accountability partners as a way to enforce a "penalty" on yourself. "If you tell someone whose opinion you care about that you intend to do thing X — you know, 'I'm going to pass my CPA exam by this date' or 'I'm going to run a marathon on this date'... and then you don't do it? Well, that's basically a penalty, right? Because now you have shame and embarrassment," Milkman explains.

**Change isn't one and done:** Despite all the helpful takeaways from her research, Milkman compares the process of making change or achieving tough goals to treating a chronic disease rather than curing a rash. It's an insight she credits to her colleague Kevin Volpp. There's no quick fix if you want change to last, Milkman says. Quitting smoking or eating right for a month won't magically make you healthy — **lasting change requires lasting attention. "The barriers to change — it's not like those things just go away after you work on them for a month," Milkman says. "They're not curable. They're part of the human condition."**



# The \$7,500 tax credit for electric cars will see big changes in 2024. What to know

DECEMBER 28, 2023 · 5:00 AM ET

 Camila Domonoske



A \$7,500 tax credit for electric vehicles will see substantial changes in 2024. It will be easier to get because it will be available as an instant rebate at dealerships, but fewer models are likely to qualify.

**SPOILER ALERT: *"It's definitely confusing, . . ."***

**What's new for 2024: instant rebate.** Starting in January, EV buyers won't have to wait until the following year's tax season to claim — and pocket — the clean vehicle tax credit. Instead, there's a new option to take the credit as a rebate right when you purchase the vehicle. This means that after a bit of paperwork at the dealership, the credit will be available as essentially cash in hand (or, more likely, knocked off the cost of the vehicle) on the day of purchase. It will work like this: First, after confirming the sale is eligible for the tax credit, the dealer basically fronts you the money. If you're eligible for \$7,500, the dealer credits you for that money as though you'd brought it in as cash. Then the dealer submits documentation to the IRS, and the IRS pays back the dealer that \$7,500 — effectively meaning the tax credit is being handled through the dealership.

**You, the buyer, still need to be under an income cap** An important part of this process is that as the buyer, you need to attest that you are under the income cap, that you're buying the vehicle for your own use and that you're buying it to use in the United States. These requirements have not changed. That income cap is based on "modified adjusted gross income" — your income after certain deductions (like retirement contributions). It's generally Line 11 on your 1040 form, but if you have foreign income or income from Guam or Puerto Rico, you'll need to add those back in.

The income caps for new vehicles are:

- \$300,000 for married couples filing jointly
- \$225,000 for heads of households
- \$150,000 for all other filers

Note that adjusted gross income (AGI) is not the same as total income (your salary before any deductions) or taxable income (which is AGI minus standard or itemized deductions).

**"It's definitely confusing,"** says Alison Flores, a manager with the Tax Institute at H&R Block. "Let's say you're single. Your salary is \$160,000 a year. You may say, 'Oh, I don't qualify because I'm over \$150,000,'" she says. But contributions to a 401(k), for instance, could easily mean your AGI is actually under the limit, she explains. What if you aren't sure how much money you'll make in 2024? You can use the previous year's income to qualify — as long as you are under that cap in either 2023 or 2024, you're eligible. And if you make more than you expected? If you told the dealer you were sure you met the income cap requirement and it turns out you were over the cap in both 2023 and 2024, then you will need to repay the IRS the \$7,500 tax credit when you file your 2024 taxes. (The dealer is not involved; that's between you and the IRS to work out.)

[...]



# In talks with the U.S., Mexico's priority appears to be opening border crossings

DECEMBER 27, 2023 · 6:48 PM ET

By The Associated Press



Migrants cross the Rio Grande river to reach the United States from Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, on Wednesday, Dec. 27, 2023.

Christian Chavez/AP

MEXICO CITY — Mexican officials moved to clear a migrant encampment on the banks of the Rio Grande river Wednesday as U.S. officials met with Mexico's president to press for measures to limit surge of migrants reaching the U.S. southwestern border. Mexico began clearing tents, both occupied and unoccupied, from the encampment in the border city of Matamoros, across from Brownsville, Texas, starting Tuesday. The effort, backed by bulldozers and workers with machetes, continued Wednesday as U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken talked with President Andrés Manuel López Obrador in Mexico City. **López Obrador has said he is willing to help, but he wants to see progress in U.S. relations with Cuba and Venezuela, two of the top sources of migrants, along with more development aid for the region. But Mexico's top priority appeared to be getting the United States to reopen border crossings that were closed because of the migrant surge.** "We spoke about the importance of the border, and about the economic relationship ... the importance of reopening the border crossings, that is a priority for us," Foreign Relations Secretary Alicia Bárcena said following the meeting in Mexico City, which was also attended by U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas and homeland security adviser Liz Sherwood-Randall.

This month, as many as 10,000 migrants were arrested daily on the southwest U.S. border. The U.S. has struggled to process thousands of migrants at the border, and house them once they reach northern cities. Mexican industries were stung last week when the U.S. briefly closed two vital Texas railway crossings, arguing that border patrol agents had to be reassigned to deal with the surge. Another non-rail border crossing remained closed in Lukeville, Arizona, and operations were partially suspended in San Diego and Nogales, Arizona. The dismantling of the migrant encampment in Matamoros appeared to be a good-will gesture toward the United States. Migrants set up the encampment in late 2022. It once held as many as 1,500 migrants, but many tents were vacated in recent months as migrants waded across the river to reach the United States. Segismundo Doguín, the head of the local office of Mexico's immigration agency, said, "What we are doing is removing any tents that we see are empty." But one Honduran migrant who would give only his first name, José, claimed some of the 200 remaining migrants had been practically forced to leave the camp late Tuesday. "They ran us out," he said, saying migrants were given short notice to move their tents and belongings out of the way and felt intimidated by the bulldozer moving through the tents. "You had to run for your life to avoid an accident."

**Mexico has assigned over 32,000 soldiers and National Guard troopers about 11% of its total forces to enforce immigration laws, and the National Guard now detains far more migrants than criminals.** But the shortcomings of Mexico's effort were on display Tuesday, when National Guard members made no attempt to stop a caravan of about 6,000 migrants, many from Central America and Venezuela, from walking through Mexico's main inland immigration inspection point in southern Chiapas state near the Guatemala border.

In the past, Mexico has let such caravans go through, trusting that they would tire themselves out walking along the highway. By Wednesday, Lazara Padrón Molina, 46, from Cuba was sick and exhausted. The caravan set out Dec. 24 from the city of Tapachula and had walked about 45 miles (75 kilometers) through the heat to Escuintla in southern Chiapas state. "The route is too long to continue walking. Why don't they just give us documents so that we could get a bus or a taxi?" Padrón Molina said. "Look at my feet," she said, showing blisters. "I can't go on anymore." **But wearing the migrants out — by obliging Venezuelans and others to hike through the jungle-clad Darien Gap between Colombia and Panama or corralling migrants off passenger buses in Mexico — no longer appears to work.** So many migrants have been hopping freight trains through Mexico that one of the country's two major railroad companies suspended trains in September because of safety concerns. Police raids to pull migrants off railway cars — the kind of action Mexico took a decade ago — might be one thing the American delegation would like to see.

A few blocks from Mexico City's main plaza, where Blinken met with López Obrador at the National Palace, migrants stayed at an improvised shelter at a church, gathering strength before continuing north.

David Peña, his two daughters and his pregnant wife, Maryeris Zerpa, hoped to reach the United States before the child is born in about a month.

"The goal is to cross over so the baby will be born there," Peña said. But with no asylum appointment, he had no idea how the family will enter.

The U.S. has shown that one country's problems on the border quickly become both countries' problems. The Texas railway closures put a chokehold on freight moving from Mexico to the U.S. as well as grain needed to feed Mexican livestock moving south.

**López Obrador confirmed last week that U.S. officials want Mexico to do more to block migrants at its southern border with Guatemala, or make it more difficult to move across Mexico by train or in trucks or buses. But the president said that in exchange he wanted the United States to send more development aid to migrants' home countries and to reduce or eliminate sanctions on Cuba and Venezuela.** "We are going to help, as we always do," López Obrador said. "Mexico is helping reach agreements with other countries, in this case Venezuela." He said Mexico has proposed to President Joe Biden that a U.S.-Cuba bilateral dialogue be opened.

In May, Mexico agreed to take in migrants from countries such as Venezuela, Nicaragua and Cuba who are turned away by the U.S. for not following rules that provided new legal pathways to asylum and other forms of migration.



# 'New York Times' sues ChatGPT creator OpenAI, Microsoft, for copyright infringement

DECEMBER 27, 2023 · 1:47 PM ET



Bobby Allyn



The New York Times filed a federal lawsuit against OpenAI and Microsoft seeking to end the practice of using its published material to train chatbots.

**The New York Times sued OpenAI and its biggest backer, Microsoft,** over copyright infringement on Wednesday, alleging the creator of ChatGPT used the newspaper's material without permission to train the massively popular chatbot. In August, NPR reported that lawyers for OpenAI and the Times were engaged in tense licensing negotiations that had turned acrimonious, with the Times threatening to take legal action to protect the unauthorized use of its stories, which were being used to generate ChatGPT answers in response to user questions. And now, the newspaper has done just that. **OpenAI has said using news articles is "fair use":** In the suit, attorneys for the Times claimed it sought "fair value" in its talks with OpenAI over the use of its content, but both sides could not reach an agreement. OpenAI leaders have insisted that its mass scraping of large swaths of the internet, including articles from the Times, is protected under a legal doctrine known as "fair use." It allows for material to be reused without permission in certain instances, including for research and teaching. **Courts have said fair use of a copyrighted work must generate something new that is "transformative," or comments on or refers back to an original work — something the Times argues does not apply to how OpenAI reproduces the paper's original reporting.**

"There is nothing 'transformative' about using The Times's content without payment to create products that substitute for The Times and steal audiences away from it," Times lawyers wrote in the suit on Wednesday.

**Suit seeks damages over alleged unlawful copying:** The suit seeks to hold OpenAI and Microsoft responsible for the "billions of dollars in statutory and actual damages that they owe for the unlawful copying and use" of the Times' articles. In addition, the Times' legal team is asking a court to order the destruction of all large language model datasets, including ChatGPT, that rely on the publication's copyrighted works. OpenAI and Microsoft did not return a request for comment.

Some news publishers have been leery about partnering with tech companies after becoming reliant on online traffic ushered in through search and social media, only to see Big Tech pivot away from distributing news in recent years. At the same time, the tech industry continued to pocket large sums of online advertising dollars, as the news industry struggled.

Media executives do not want to repeat the same pattern with AI, and the Times' legal battle with OpenAI could result in sweeping ramifications for the entire digital publishing industry.

The Times is the first major media organization to drag OpenAI to court over the thorny and still-unresolved question of whether artificial intelligence companies broke intellectual property law by training AI models with copyrighted material.

Over the past several months, OpenAI has tried to contain the conflict by striking licensing deals with publishers, including with the Associated Press and German media conglomerate Axel Springer, which publishes Business Insider and Politico.

**The Times' suit joins a growing number of legal actions filed against OpenAI over copyright infringement. Writers, comedians, artists and others have filed complaints against the tech company, saying OpenAI's models illegally used their material without permission.**

Another issue highlighted in the Times' suit is ChatGPT's tendency to "hallucinate," or produce information that sounds believable but is in fact completely fabricated.

**Lawyers for the Times say that ChatGPT sometimes miscites the newspaper, claiming it reported things that were never reported, causing the paper "commercial and competitive injury." These so-called "hallucinations" can be amplified to millions when tech companies incorporate chatbot answers in search engine results, as Microsoft is already doing with its Bing search engine.** Lawyers for the paper wrote in the suit: "Users who ask a search engine what The Times has written on a subject should be provided with neither an unauthorized copy nor an inaccurate forgery of a Times article."





1 of 10 | A woman carries two children she is caring for at Fontaine Hospital Center, which treats malnourished children in the Cite Soleil neighborhood of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, on May 29, 2023. (AP Photo/Ariana Cubillos)

**Independent lawyers begin prosecuting cases of sexual assault and other crimes in the US military**

**Michigan Supreme Court will keep Trump on 2024 primary ballot**

**Trump says he didn't know his immigration rhetoric echoes Hitler. That's part of a broader pattern**

**The US will pull weapons from Pentagon stockpiles for its Ukraine military package as funds dwindle**

**New Mexico native will oversee the state's \$49B savings portfolio amid windfall from petroleum**

**US companies are picky about investing in China. The exceptions? Burgers and lattes**

**Argentina's unions take to the streets to protest president's cutbacks, deregulation and austerity**



**The year in photos: AP's most memorable photos of 2023**



**2023 images show violence and vibrance in Latin America**



**An earthquake, a shipwreck and a king's coronation are among Europe's views in 2023**



**In 2023, calamities of war and disaster were unleashed again on an unsettled Middle East**



**AP photos reveal intensity, insecurity and inequality as climate change alters the world**



**2023 was marked by coups and a Moroccan earthquake on the African continent**

**AP** How açai gets from th... ⋮

**THE PROTEIN PROBLEM**

**How açai gets from the rainforest to your smoothie**





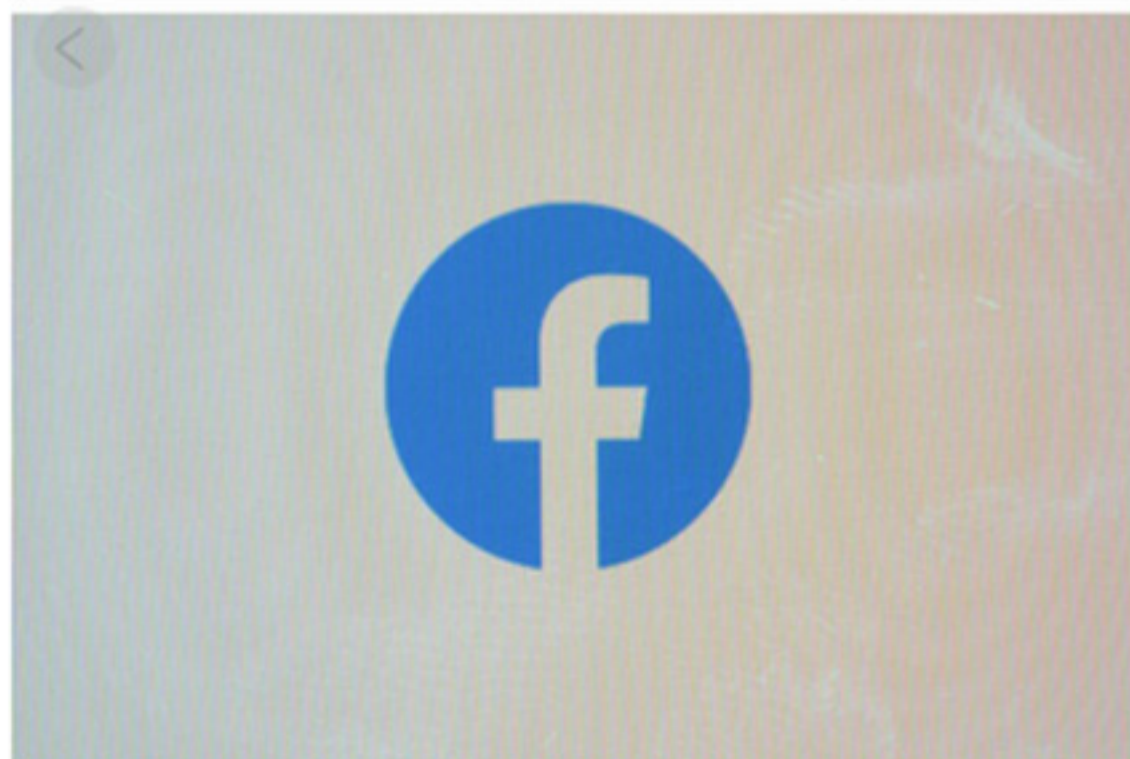
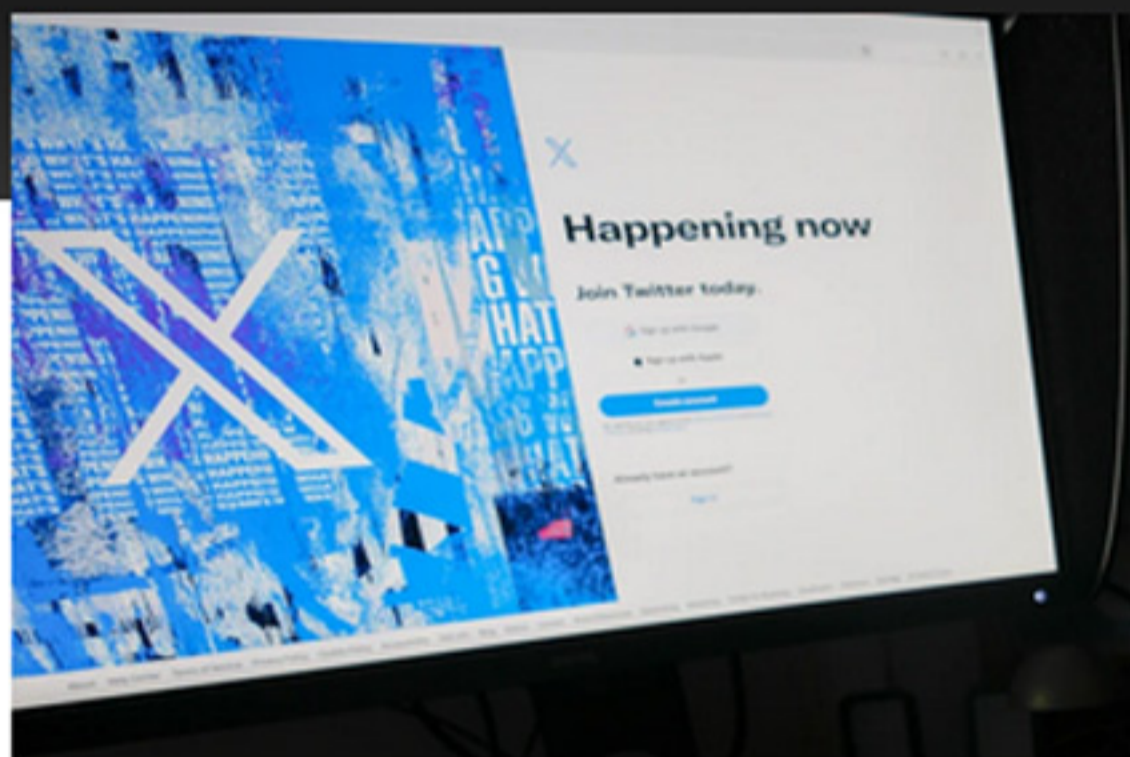
<https://apnews.com/>



**A woman carries two children she is caring for at Fontaine Hospital Center, which treats malnourished children in the Cite Soleil neighborhood of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, on May 29, 2023. (AP Photo/Ariana Cubillos)**



# Social media companies made \$11 billion in US ad revenue from minors, Harvard study finds



1 of 2 | FILE - This combination of photos shows logos of X, formerly known as Twitter, top left; Snapchat, top right; Facebook, bottom left; and TikTok, bottom right. Social media companies collectively made over \$11 billion in U.S. advertising revenue from minors last year, according to a study from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health released Wednesday, Dec. 27, 2023. (AP Photo, File)

Social media companies collectively made over \$11 billion in U.S. advertising revenue from minors last year, according to a study from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health published on Wednesday.

The researchers say the findings show a need for government regulation of social media since the companies that stand to make money from children who use their platforms have failed to meaningfully self-regulate. They note such regulations, as well as greater transparency from tech companies, could help alleviate harms to youth mental health and curtail potentially harmful advertising practices that target children and adolescents.

According to the Harvard study, YouTube derived the greatest ad revenue from users 12 and under (\$959.1 million), followed by Instagram (\$801.1 million) and Facebook (\$137.2 million).

Instagram, meanwhile, derived the greatest ad revenue from users aged 13-17 (\$4 billion), followed by TikTok (\$2 billion) and YouTube (\$1.2 billion).

The researchers also estimate that Snapchat derived the greatest share of its overall 2022 ad revenue from users under 18 (41%), followed by TikTok (35%), YouTube (27%), and Instagram (16%).

BY BARBARA ORTUTAY AND HALELUYA HADERO

Updated 12:12 PM PST, December 27, 2023





<https://apnews.com/article/flag-football-women-olympics-team-usa-ef810674ccfc9807ac8aac8ca02198e9>

# Flag football gives female players sense of community, scholarship options and soon shot at Olympics

Flag football's inclusion in the 2028 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles only enhances the profile of a sport that's growing by leaps and bounds on the women's side.



1 of 10 | Ashlea Klam, 19, right, tries to evade a defender during a training session for her flag football team at Keiser University in West Palm Beach, Fla., Thursday, Nov. 30, 2023. The no-contact sport featuring plenty of offensive action has really been on the rise for a while, with girls-specific teams and leagues springing up from coast to coast. (AP Photo/Rebecca Blackwell)





# PERUVIAN SHAMANS HOLD RITUAL TO BLESS THE COMING YEAR



**A group of shamans gathered on a mountain outside Lima to perform a ritual to bless world leaders and make their own predictions for 2024.**



MUSIC INTERVIEWS

## Canadian singer-songwriter Allison Russell plays tracks from 'The Returner'

by Terry Gross

II LISTEN · 44:15

**Allison Russell** is a Canadian singer-songwriter, musician and activist.

Prior to her solo music career, Russell performed as a member of various music groups including *Po' Girl*,<sup>[1]</sup> *Birds of Chicago*,<sup>[2]</sup> *Our Native Daughters*<sup>[3]</sup> and *Sisters of the Strawberry Moon*.<sup>[4]</sup> She released her first solo album, *Outside Child*, in 2021.<sup>[5]</sup> The album was nominated for a 2022 *Grammy Award* in the *Best Americana Album* category, and the single "Nightflyer" was nominated for both the *Best American Roots Performance* (Russell) and *Best American Roots Song* (Russell and Jeremy Lindsay, co-writers).<sup>[6]</sup>

Her second album, *The Returner* was released in September 2023. The album received four *Grammy Award* nominations including *Best Americana Album*, *Best American Roots Song* and *Best Americana Performance* for the album's title track "The Returner". It also received a *Best American Roots Performance* nomination for the single "Eve Was Black".<sup>[7][8]</sup>

Russell has received a total of eight *Grammy* nominations,<sup>[9]</sup> four *Canadian Folk Music Awards* and two *Juno Awards* and has been named to the long list for the *Polaris Music Prize*.<sup>[10][11]</sup>

### Early life and education  [[edit](#)]

Russell was born in Montreal to a Grenadian father and a Scottish-Canadian teenage single mother.<sup>[12][13]</sup> Her mother struggled with postpartum depression and schizophrenia, and Russell was initially placed in foster care.<sup>[14]</sup> Her mother regained custody of her after marrying a white-supremacist American expatriate.<sup>[12][13][14]</sup> From the ages of 5 to 15, she was physically and sexually abused by her adoptive father.<sup>[12][13][14]</sup> At the age of 15, Russell ran away from home, eventually moving to Vancouver in 1998.<sup>[13][15][16]</sup> She attended *Dawson College*.<sup>[17]</sup>

Allison Russell



Russell in 2021

#### Background information

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| <b>Born</b>         | <span>Montreal, Quebec, Canada</span>  |
| <b>Genres</b>       | <span>Americana · Folk</span>  |
| <b>Years active</b> | <span>1999–present</span>  |
| <b>Labels</b>       | <span>Fantasy</span>   |
| <b>Member of</b>    | <span><i>Birds of Chicago</i> · <i>Po' Girl</i> · <i>Our Native Daughters</i></span> |
| <b>Website</b>      | <span><a href="http://allisonrussellmusic.com">allisonrussellmusic.com</a></span>    |

This is FRESH AIR. I'm Terry Gross. This week, we're featuring some of our favorite interviews of the year. Today, we hear from musician Allison Russell, who sings original songs in a powerful voice that rings out. Some of her songs are about a subject that many people feel they have to keep secret. She was physically and sexually abused by her adoptive father through her childhood until she left home at age 15. She has a song about one night when she was in high school and had to escape him. She ran to the home of her girlfriend, her first love, and tapped on her window, asking to be let in. As we learn in other songs, some nights she escaped him by sleeping in the park, in a cemetery or sheltering in a cathedral.

She also has songs about learning she's capable of being loved and reentering her body after having had to mentally detach from it to survive. Her mother is white. Her biological father is Black. And her adoptive father is a white racist. She sings about that, too.

After performing in bands for many years, she now records under her own name. Her first solo album, "Outside Child," released in 2021, won a Juno Award - the Canadian equivalent of a Grammy - for contemporary roots album of the year. Russell grew up in Montreal. Her latest album, "The Returner," is currently nominated for four Grammys. When we spoke in September, Russell sang some of her songs for us, but we started with the opening track of "The Returner." The lyric is about saying goodbye to her traumatic past. The song is called "Springtime."



## Joyful Motherfuckers

One, two, three and  
Where in the world are the joyful motherfuckers?  
The fearless lovers, the rainbow shooters  
The wild acceptors, the hopeful sinners  
The gentle teachers, the true forgivers  
Les courageuses, les amoureuses  
Les enfants braves, les grand-meres jeunes, les lumineuses  
If you've got love in your heart, but it's way down in the dark  
You better let it see the sun, this world is almost done  
Grandma always told me love will conquer hate  
I don't know if it's too late, I don't know if it's too late  
Hey you, hey you, who you think I'm talking to?  
Show 'em what you got in your heart  
Blessings be upon the thief of my childhood  
The ragged jackal, that loveless coward  
Oh my father, you were the thief of nothing  
I'll be a child in the garden, ten-thousand years and counting  
Les courageuses, les amoureuses  
Les enfants braves, les grands-meres jeunes  
Les lumineuses, petites merveilleuses  
Constellations hors de temps  
Le coeur est plus grand  
Le coeur est plus grand  
Qu'on soupcon

**If you've got love in your heart, but it's way down in the dark**  
**You better let it see the sun, this world is almost done**

Grandma always told me love will conquer hate  
I don't know if it's too late, I don't know if it's too late  
Hey you, hey you, who you think I'm talking to?  
Show 'em what you got in your heart

*Songwriters: Allison Russell / Jeremy Thomas Lindsay*  
*Joyful Motherfuckers lyrics © Concord Music Publishing LLC*





<https://youtu.be/JJJ-V9JYMjY>

# Allison Russell



Anywhere you go  
You're not alone

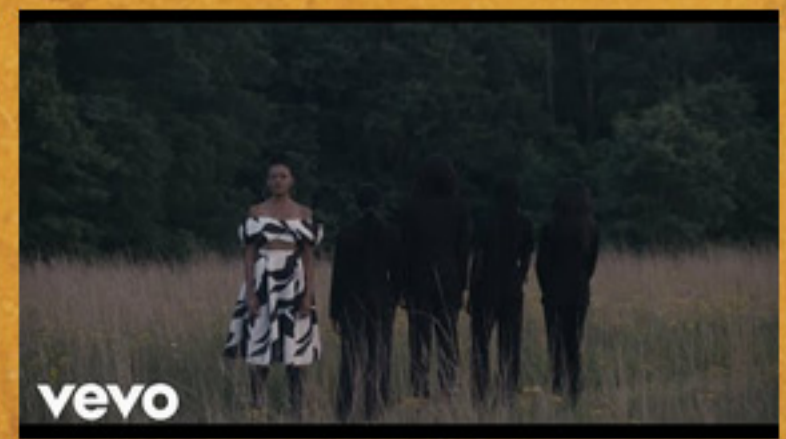
AMERICAN MUSIC AWARDS Allison Russell feat. Brandi Carlile "You're Not Alone" - Live ...

MORE

0:03 / 6:51

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1 / 3 Next »





# ≡ Allison Russell - Demons (Official Music Video)



Allison Russell ♀

15.4K subscribers

[https://youtu.be/vE\\_weDj8cgM](https://youtu.be/vE_weDj8cgM)

97,186 views Oct 30, 2023 #Demons #AllisonRussell #TheReturner

From the album "The Returner" available everywhere now..

As the fires of severe cellular intergenerational trauma and heart shattering cyclical violence rage, consuming so many of our children (all children, our children) & the polarization of our one human family has reached crisis levels— I rededicate myself to the mission and currency of art — empathy & connection. We don't have to hide from our history, we just have to face it. And walk through it together.



Ah-ha, hush that fuss  
Send your demons to the back of the bus  
No matter how they holler  
No matter how they moan  
They can't change where they are going

Demons (demons) demons (demons)  
Comin' up from behind  
Demons (demons) demons (demons)  
Been there all my life  
Demons (demons) demons (demons)  
Surely can't outride 'em  
Oh turn around, look 'em in the face  
They don't like how sunlight tastes  
No-no-no-no-no-no-no



https://www.kensingtonbooks.com/9781496739339/the-still-point/



# THE STILL POINT

Dance Moms meets *Little Fires Everywhere* in award winning author Tammy Greenwood's addictive new novel set in the hyper cutthroat world of ballet girls and their mothers as they compete for a prestigious prize...

"She had never seen Bea dance like this. Ever sat spellbound as her daughter grew from a little girl into a woman before her eyes..."

Ever, Lindsay, and Josie have ushered their daughters—Bea, Olive, and Savvy—through years of dance classes in their coastal California town. They've tended bloodied feet, stitched ribbons to countless pairs of pointe shoes, and in the process, forged friendships that seem to transcend rivalry.

But now Etienne Bernay, enfant terrible of French ballet, has come to their conservatory. Not only will he direct this year's production of *The Nutcracker*, but he's brought along a film crew to document his search for one special student who will receive a full scholarship to the Ballet de Paris Academie. For the girls, this is the chance to fulfill lifelong dreams. For Ever, recently widowed and struggling financially, it may be the only way to keep Bea dancing. And Bea is a truly gifted dancer—poetic and ethereal, breathtaking to watch.

Lindsay, meanwhile, frets that Olive is growing tired of the punishing reality of training, while Josie has no such qualms about Savvy, who is a powerhouse of ambition.

From auditions to casting to rehearsals, the cameras capture the selection process, with its backstabbing and jealousy, disappointment and triumph. But it's behind the scenes that Bernay's arrival will yield the most shocking revelations, exposing the secrets and lies at the heart of all three families—and the sacrifices women make for their children, for friendship, and for art.

EARLY PRAISE FOR THE STILL POINT



Pre-Order

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# ABOUT THE AUTHOR

T. Greenwood grew up in rural Vermont in the 1970s. She began writing stories at seven years old and wrote her first "novel" at nine on her dad's electric typewriter.

Since then, she has published fifteen novels. She has received grants from the Sherwood Anderson Foundation, the Christopher Isherwood Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Maryland State Arts Council. She has won three San Diego Book Awards. Five of her novels have been Indie Next picks. *Bodies of Water* was finalist for a Lambda Foundation award, and *Keeping Lucy* was a Target Book Club Pick.

Her fifteenth novel, *The Still Point*, will be published by Kensington Books on February 20, 2024. *The Still Point* is inspired by her own background in dance as well as her experience as the mother of a professional ballet dancer.

She teaches creative writing for San Diego Writer's Ink and online for The Writer's Center. She and her husband, Patrick, split their time between San Diego, CA and her family's camp on a pond in Vermont. They have two grown-up kids and two dogs.





Naomi Shihab Nye Art of Disappear

About Us Newsletters **SUBSCRIBE**



# My Dad Says

BY NAOMI AYALA

I can do anything, so I try yoga nidra  
to see if I can find him.  
He's been dead four years now  
though I tell people when they ask, two. Just two.  
My mind refuses what it wants  
even if I haven't lost anything.  
One day I caw like a seagull  
swooping in for a long dive.  
Another, I am hunger waking up the bear.  
Today I go to the trees to listen  
and he is an old cedar, but sweeter than that.  
When I was a girl, I knew I'd never be a girl exactly.  
He was the only one who knew it  
and let me run wild, would never tell the others.

[NOTE: The most general description of yoga nidra is that it combines guided mental imagery with a specific yoga posture called Shavasana (or "corpse pose").]

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<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/naomi-ayala>

### A Coquí in Nueva York

I am a loud mouth coqui  
 that broke out from the island  
 because the yanquis were  
 crowding the place, talking 'bout  
 chopping up trees in El Yunque -- as if  
 paper products could feed  
 the eyes or fill the lungs -- talking  
 'bout turning Loiza  
 into an open-air museum,  
 'bout eating broken English anthems  
 for breakfast at school  
 & how wonderful  
 & necessary it all was.  
 In the gallery  
 of their economic dreams  
 I sat by, shoving my song  
 deep into the fat briefcases  
 of their intentions  
 & sandwiched  
 between so much crap I knew  
 it would rot & make a stink  
 they'd have to tend to sometime.  
 All I wanted was to sing,  
 sing of my green onliness.  
 I braved it to Nueva York with an attitude  
 I could sing where  
 I wanted what I wanted to.  
 I would invade the land of freedom with songs  
 that rotted into stinks  
 songs that drew people, made them move  
 toward the dance of action,  
 songs that composted  
 the garbage of nightmares  
 into fine, fine food.  
 I trained my song to live on air  
 years at a time, to leap  
 the tall buildings of frustration  
 and no-peace until I could smuggle it  
 back home & forth the back door way  
 & it multiply  
 & multiply  
 there & here.  
 And so I am alive today  
 & I call that a victory.  
 My song may be missing  
 a few fingers & its legs bandaged up  
 but it's alive, loud, brave.



### Four Poems from Wild Animals on the Moon

[A Coquí in Nueva York](#)  
[Race | TheTattoo](#)  
[Personal History](#)

by Naomi Ayala  
New Haven, Connecticut

Naomi Ayala migrated from Puerto Rico as an adolescent in the late 1970s and settled in New Haven, Connecticut where she lives today. After years of work as a translator, court interpreter, and high school teacher.

Ms. Ayala now tours the state as a Master Teaching artist working with primary and secondary schools, prisons and community centers. A committed community activist and accomplished arts administrator, Ms. Ayala is also responsible for overseeing the Inner City Cultural Development Project on the Arts and the Institute for Community Research, for co-founding the New Haven Alliance for Arts and Cultures, and helping establish New Haven's first International Festival of Arts and Ideas.

Her work has appeared in numerous literary journals -- among them *The Village Voice Literary Supplement*, *The Massachusetts Review*, *The Caribbean Writer*, *Callaloo*, and *Kalliope* and has been anthologized in *The Creative Resistance: Puerto Rican Women in the U.S.* (Third Woman Press, Berkeley).

All four of the poems published here can be found in **Wild Animals on the Moon**, published by [Curbstone Press](#).

## Naomi Ayala

Author ⋮



Naomi Ayala.  
Photo by Peter J. Crowley.

{Walk & waggle  
rock & roll}



## Opinion

# The zeitgeist is changing. A strange, romantic backlash to the tech era looms

Ross Barkan

**For now**, rapacious tech still has a mass buy-in. Smartphones are ubiquitous. Facebook, Apple, Amazon and Google are hegemonic. Mark Zuckerberg sculpts his pharaonic Hawaii compound. He and his ilk own the present. Whether they own the future, forevermore, is no longer clear. Generational change is hard on the incumbents. And romanticism won't hold still; it promises, at the minimum, a wild and unsteady flame. What it burns is still anyone's guess.



Empiricism, algorithms and smartphones are out – astrology, art and a life lived fiercely offline are in

Thu 28 Dec 2023 06.13 EST

Cultural upheavals can be a riddle in real time. Trends that might seem obvious in hindsight are poorly understood in the present or not fathomed at all. We live in turbulent times now, at the tail end of a pandemic that killed millions and, for a period, reordered existence as we knew it. It marked, perhaps more than any other crisis in modern times, a new era, the world of the 2010s wrenched away for good. What comes next can't be known – not with so much war and political instability, the rise of autocrats around the world, and the growing plausibility of a second Donald Trump term. Within the roil – or below it – one can hazard, at least, a hypothesis: a change is here and it should be named. A rebellion, both conscious and unconscious, has begun. It is happening both online and off-, and the off is where the youth, one day, might prefer to wage it. It echoes, in its own way, a great shift that came more than two centuries ago, out of the ashes of the Napoleonic wars. **The new romanticism has arrived**, butting up against and even outright rejecting the empiricism that reigned for a significant chunk of this century. **Backlash is bubbling against tech's dominance of everyday life, particularly the godlike algorithms – their true calculus still proprietary – that rule all of digital existence.** The famed mantra of the liberal left in the early months of the pandemic – trust the science – has faded from view, as hero worship ceases for the bureaucrat scientists (Anthony Fauci) and even for the pharmaceutical behemoths that developed, with federal assistance, the Covid vaccines. Church attendance, long the barometer of the US's devotion to the

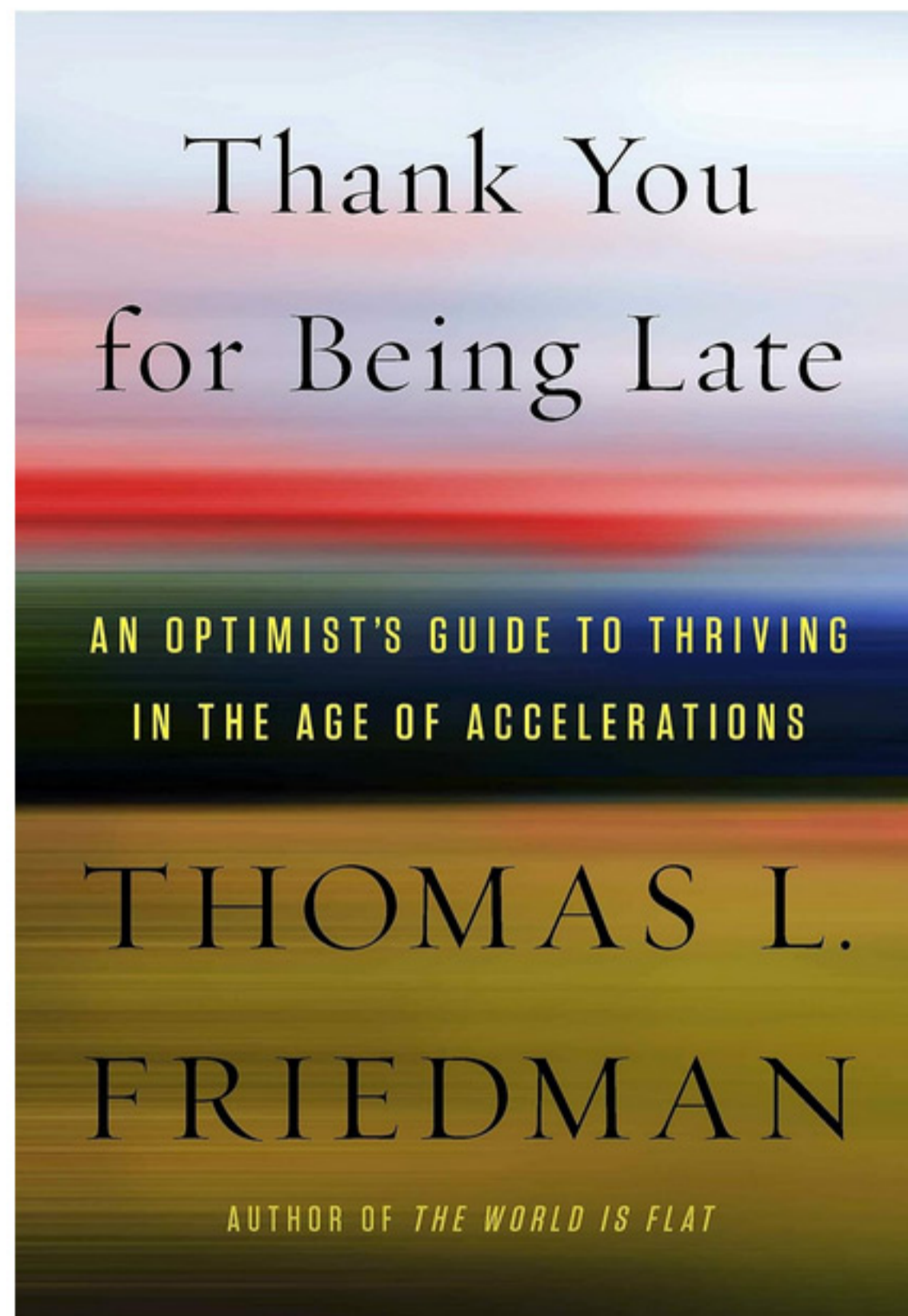
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ross\\_Barkan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ross_Barkan) >

**Ross Elliot Barkan** (born October 22, 1989<sup>[1][2][3]</sup>) is an American journalist, novelist, and essayist. Barkan grew up in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn. He attended Stony Brook University and earned a master's degree from New York University. Barkan was a staff reporter at the Queens Tribune.<sup>[6]</sup> He covered New York City and national politics for the New York Observer from 2013 to 2016.<sup>[7]</sup> In April 2016, he rose to prominence after resigning from the Observer over the newspaper's close relationship with Donald Trump, the Republican presidential candidate. The Observer's executive editor, Ken Kurson, revealed in a magazine interview he advised Trump on a speech the candidate delivered before the American Israel Public Affairs Committee. Announcing his resignation the day after the Observer endorsed Trump in the New York Republican primary, Barkan later told CNN "a line had been crossed and I thought it was time for myself to depart." As a columnist and freelance reporter, Barkan has contributed to the Village Voice, The Guardian, The Washington Post,<sup>[12]</sup> The New Yorker,<sup>[13]</sup> The New York Times, The Nation,<sup>[14]</sup> Reuters, Esquire, GQ, New York Daily News, Daily Beast, The Baffler, the Los Angeles Review of Books, and the Columbia Journalism Review. He covered the 2013 New York City mayoral race, including Anthony Weiner's campaign, and the 2016 presidential race. He has taught journalism and media studies at NYU<sup>[16]</sup> and St. Joseph's College in Brooklyn. He was a staff reporter at New York Magazine and remains a contributor there. Barkan is currently a columnist for The Guardian and was a columnist for Jacobin magazine. He is a contributor to The Nation. In 2023, he was named a contributing writer to the New York Times Magazine. Barkan has published fiction in Post Road, Boston College's literary magazine, and literary criticism in the Iowa Review,<sup>[23]</sup> Harvard Review,<sup>[24]</sup> The Rumpus,<sup>[25]</sup> and The Brooklyn Rail. His debut novel, Demolition Night, was published in 2018. His second book, The Prince: Andrew Cuomo, Coronavirus, and the Fall of New York, was published in 2021. It was well-reviewed, with The Nation calling it a "swift and devastating read." In 2022, his second novel, The Night Burns Bright, was published. Barkan has twice been the recipient of the New York Press Club's award for distinguished newspaper commentary, in 2017 and 2019.

In October 2017, he announced he was running for State Senate in New York City, challenging incumbent Marty Golden in 2018. Barkan's campaign was managed by future-Assemblymember Zohran Mamdani and endorsed by the New York Daily News and local politicians such as Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, but lost the September 2018 Democratic primary to Andrew Gounardes.

*"... romanticism won't hold still; it promises, at the minimum, a wild and unsteady flame. What it burns is still anyone's guess."*





We all sense it—something big is going on. You feel it in your workplace. You feel it when you talk to your kids. You can't miss it when you read the newspapers or watch the news. Our lives are being transformed in so many realms all at once—and it is dizzying.

In *Thank You for Being Late*, version 2.0, with a new afterword, Thomas L. Friedman exposes the tectonic movements that are reshaping the world today and explains how to get the most out of them and cushion their worst impacts. His thesis: to understand the twenty-first century, you need to understand that the planet's three largest forces—Moore's law (technology), the Market (globalization), and Mother Nature (climate change and biodiversity loss)—are accelerating all at once. These accelerations are transforming five key realms: the workplace, politics, geopolitics, ethics, and community. The year 2007 was the major inflection point: the release of the iPhone, together with advances in silicon chips, software, storage, sensors, and networking, created a new technology platform that is reshaping everything from how we hail a taxi to the fate of nations to our most intimate relationships. It is providing vast new opportunities for individuals and small groups to save the world—or to destroy it.

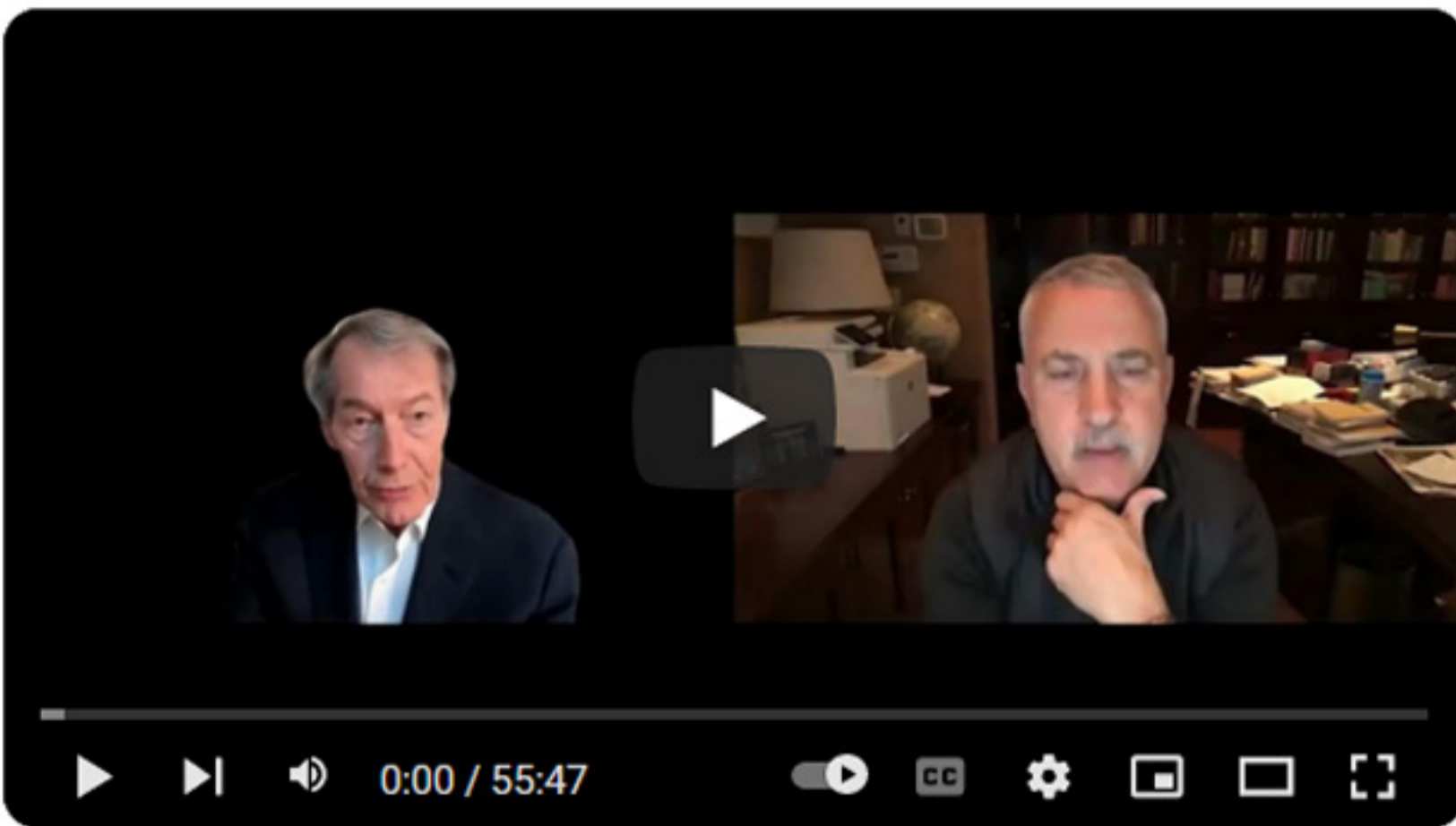
With his trademark vitality, wit, and optimism, Friedman shows that we can overcome the multiple stresses of an age of accelerations—if we slow down, if we **dare to be late and use the time to reimagine work, politics, and community**. *Thank You for Being Late* is an essential guide to the present and the future.

Thomas Friedman's next book: ***What you say when you Listen.***

*"Two things happen when you listen. There's what you learn when you listen. Secondly, listening is a sign of respect. People think you respect them; they'll let you ask them anything. People think you don't respect them, you can't tell them the sky is blue."*

You know, staying informed isn't about reading a lot, reading a lot of books, magazines, articles, watching YouTube videos and podcasts . . . as Charlie Rose says, "An essential part of freedom is good journalism. It is the capacity to read the truth. And to know the truth." At its root, journalism isn't solely about publications as much as it about how we regard each other, face to face. How we report, how we tell each other our story. How we meet, greet, interact and take the time to feel what the other feels, mirror back, echo that back, so you know we've got it right. And then, and only then, to ardently tell your most intimate truths. Tell your truth not only with your words, but your whole being.





***Thomas Friedman: "Netanyahu will go down as, not only as the worst leader in Israel history, but surely one of the worst leaders in Jewish history, and our history is long."***

### Thomas Friedman on Israel and Hamas

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23,576 views Dec 26, 2023  
The NYT columnist and author on what you should know about the Israel-Hamas war, and the biggest lesson he learned in 45 years of journalism.

Friedman is Jewish. He attended Hebrew school five days a week until his Bar Mitzvah, then St. Louis Park High School, where he wrote articles for his school's newspaper. He became enamored with Israel after a visit there in December 1968, and he spent all three of his high school summers living on Kibbutz HaHotrim, near Haifa. He has characterized his high school years as "one big celebration of Israel's victory in the Six-Day War."

In February 2002, Friedman met Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah and encouraged him to make a comprehensive attempt to end the Arab-Israeli conflict by normalizing Arab relations with Israel in exchange for the return of refugees alongside an end to the Israel territorial occupations. Abdullah proposed the Arab Peace Initiative at the Beirut Summit that March, which Friedman has since strongly supported.

COMMENTS:

@RobertKirkconnell  
Thomas skipped the egregiously brutal occupation and all international law protecting civilians -- including the Fourth Geneva Convention, the UN Charter, The U.N. Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and more. One of many key aspects included in the above is the legal right of the Palestinians to resist, even violently, Israel's horrific occupation. Tens of thousands of civilians, including thousands of babies, blown to bits or buried alive by hundreds of U.S. 2,000-pound bombs doesn't seem to bother him much, if at all. He acts like this is a war and not a textbook case of genocide.

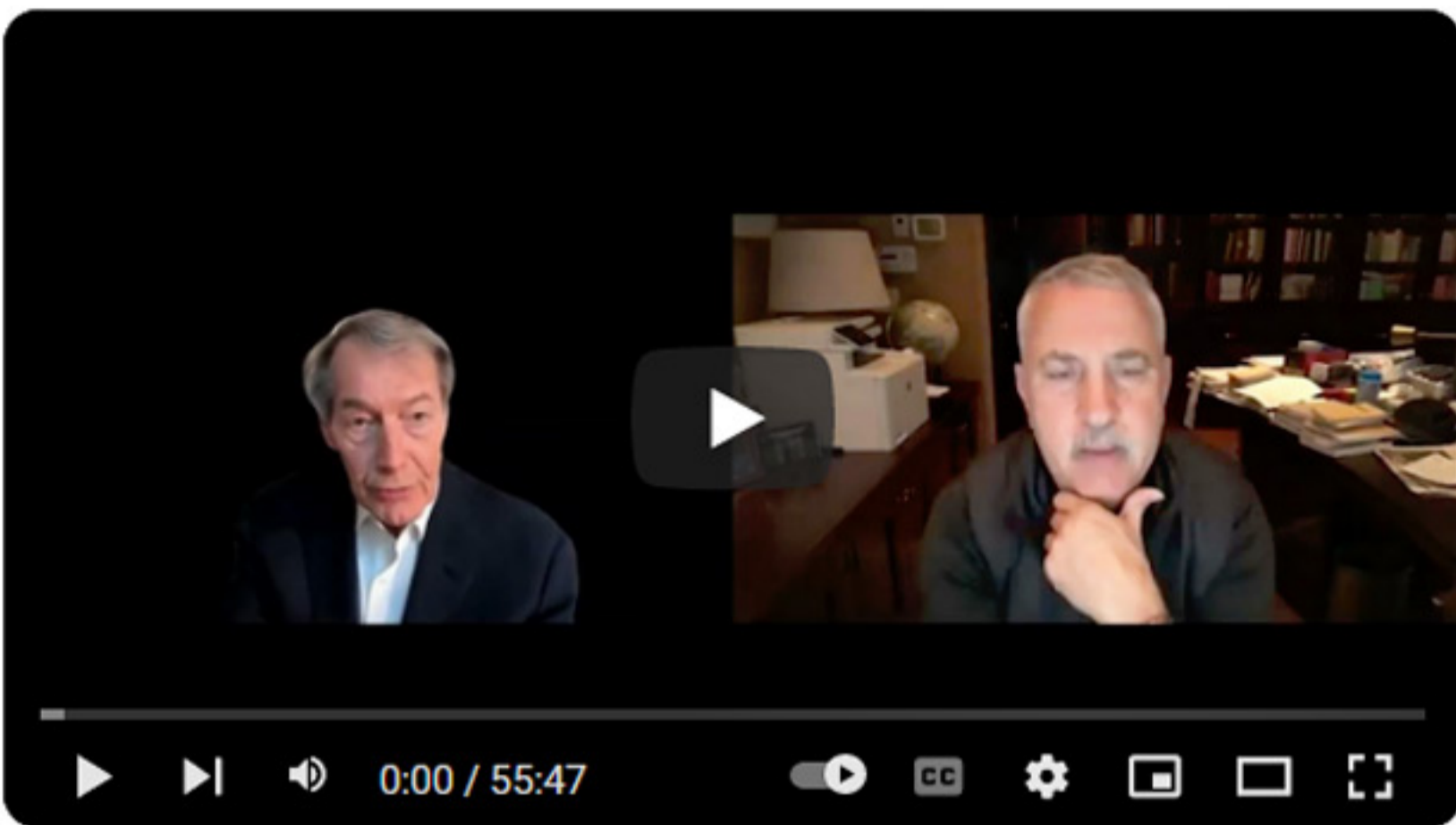
@pharaohhirani7228  
I am disappointed by Thomas Friedman whom I respect. He is citing all debunked IDF propaganda in this piece. His analyses remains sound but it is disheartening that he is an echo chamber for Netanyahu and the IDF

@goldmo2427  
lol yea for a sec I thought he seemed legit and educated and next thing he says all propaganda and acted like he saw it .. and tried to push both sides b.s

@flavianparis4843  
Why is it that all these so called experts of the area ignore the fact that Israel is an occupying force and when the occupied rise up against them it is a legitimate act.

@user-og6qo6dh7i  
Thomas never speaks about Israel's brutal occupation, he just skips that.





## Thomas Friedman on Israel and Hamas

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23,576 views Dec 26, 2023  
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**Thomas Loren Friedman** (born July 20, 1953) is an American political commentator and author. He is a three-time Pulitzer Prize winner who is a weekly columnist for The New York Times. He has written extensively on foreign affairs, global trade, the Middle East, globalization, and environmental issues. Friedman was born on July 20, 1953, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, the son of Margaret Blanche (née Phillips) and Harold Abe Friedman. Harold, who was vice president of a ball bearing company, United Bearing, died of a heart attack in 1973 when Tom was nineteen years old. Margaret, who served in the United States Navy during World War II and studied Home Economics at the University of Wisconsin, was a homemaker and a part-time bookkeeper. Margaret was also a Senior Life Master duplicate bridge player, and died in 2008. Friedman has two older sisters, Shelly and Jane. From an early age, Friedman, whose father often took him to the golf course for a round after work, wanted to be a professional golfer. He played a lot of sports, and became serious about tennis and golf. He caddied at a local country club and in 1970 caddied for professional golfer Chi Chi Rodriguez when the US Open came to town.

**Thomas Friedman**

Friedman in 2005

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| <b>Born</b>          | Thomas Loren Friedman<br>July 20, 1953 (age 70)<br><a href="#">Minneapolis, Minnesota, U.S.</a> |
| <b>Education</b>     | <a href="#">Brandeis University (BA)</a><br><a href="#">St Antony's College, Oxford (MPhil)</a> |
| <b>Occupation(s)</b> | Author<br>Columnist   |
| <b>Spouse</b>        | <a href="#">Ann Bucksbaum<sup>[1]</sup></a>   |
| <b>Children</b>      | 2   |
| <b>Relatives</b>     | <a href="#">Matthew Bucksbaum</a> (father-in-law)   |
| <b>Website</b>       | <a href="http://www.thomasfriedman.com">www.thomasfriedman.com</a>                              |

Friedman studied at the University of Minnesota for two years, but later transferred to Brandeis University and graduated summa cum laude in 1975 with a degree in Mediterranean studies. Friedman also pursued Arabic studies at The American University in Cairo, where he graduated in 1974 from its Arabic language unit (ALU) Friedman later taught a class in economics at Brandeis in 2006, and was a commencement speaker there in 2007. **After graduating from Brandeis, he attended St Antony's College at the University of Oxford as a Marshall Scholar, earning an M.Phil. in Middle Eastern studies.** Friedman received the 2004 Overseas Press Club Award for lifetime achievement and the same year was named to the Order of the British Empire by Queen Elizabeth II. In May 2011, The New York Times reported that President Barack Obama "has sounded out" Friedman concerning Middle East issues. Friedman has been criticized for his staunch advocacy of the Iraq War and unregulated trade and his early support of Saudi Royal Prince Mohammed bin Salman.



## Sexual assault cases are formally removed from the U.S. military chain of command

DECEMBER 28, 2023 · 4:59 PM ET

By Natalie Schachar



Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin speaks during a media briefing at the Pentagon on Jan. 28, 2022.

Alex Brandon/AP

**A new system that will put independent lawyers in charge of the prosecution of sexual assault cases in the U.S. military** took effect on Thursday, marking a significant change to the way the Department of Defense tries those accused of an offense. As a result of the change, **sexual assault and other serious crimes will shift away from military commanders to legal organizations within each military service called the Offices of Special Trial Counsel.**

The reform comes after years of efforts by members of Congress and others to counter a troubling rise in sexual assaults within the armed forces. For fiscal year 2022, the Pentagon's Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the Military showed incidents rose 13% in the Navy, 9% in the Air Force and 3.6% in the Marine Corps. While incidents in the Army fell 9%, there were still 8,942 reports of sexual assault across the entire force. Last year, Congress passed legislation to strengthen protections for service members, and in July, President Biden approved the system that takes effect today. In a statement, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin called the reform a "landmark change to the U.S. military justice system."

"It is the most important reform to our military justice system since the creation of the Uniform Code of Military Justice in 1950," he said. "This reform aims to help strengthen accountability and increase all of our service members' trust in the fairness and integrity of the military justice system." The offices will be staffed by special trial counsel which will also have the authority to prosecute over a dozen other charges including murder, manslaughter, kidnapping, domestic violence, stalking, child pornography and most sexual misconduct within the military. The change aims to ensure decisions are not influenced by the inherent conflicts of interest and political pressures faced by commanders tasked with prosecuting members of their unit. But Rachel VanLandingham, the president emerita of the National Institute of Military Justice, said it remains to be seen whether the change will be effective.

"While the military lawyers are 'independent' in the sense that they no longer are part of the accused or victim's chain of command, instead working for civilian service secretaries, the entire military justice structure is one that lacks independence and impartiality and deserves service members," she said.

The special trial counsels will now handle over a dozen crimes, but VanLandingham said the majority of offenses in the military code, including disobedience, dereliction of duty and insubordination, will still be handled by those in the chain of command who are no longer trusted to decide whether to charge murder or rape. "The change, while in the right direction, establishes a two-track justice system depending on the alleged offenses, and thus creates due process concerns," VanLandingham said.

Josh Connolly, a member of the board of directors of Protect Our Defenders, viewed the reform as a step forward, but said it would require truly impartial lawyers to achieve change. "All this depends on how this is implemented," he said. "If you don't have the right personnel in these divisions and they have bias, then this is all for naught."





📷 Peter Fitzek (centre), the self-proclaimed 'king' of the Reichsbürger movement, arrives at court for a fraud trial in October 2016 in Halle. His subsequent conviction was overturned in 2018. Photograph: Jens Schlueter/Getty Images

Among the most prominent organisations is the Königreich Deutschland (kingdom of Germany) or KRD, founded in 2012 in an elaborate ceremony, and boasting its own currency and constitution that gives it a state-like structure. It has been pursuing expansionist aims by acquiring what it refers to as "national territory" by buying up land and real estate. German authorities use the term Reichsbürger (citizens of the empire) to talk about all far-right groups that reject the Federal Republic of Germany and aim to overthrow the government, including the KRD, although it rejects the term.

**Followers dream of toppling modern German state:** The snug and secluded village of Rutenberg, a 90-minute drive north of Berlin in the state of Brandenburg, has become one of the latest targets of the KRD's attempts to establish an autonomous community, or what its leader, the self-styled "King" Peter Fitzek, has labelled a Gemeinwohldorf (common good village). The KRD first bought up a derelict farm grange in the centre of the village, named the Naturscheune or "nature barn", with a view to it becoming a "public enterprise" to provide the KRD with organic food. According to the BfV domestic intelligence agency, it has plans to expand on to an adjoining 44 hectares (108 acres) of land on the edge of the village. The self-governing KRD was established in 2012 by Fitzek, a former cook and karate teacher, on the grounds of an old hospital in Wittenberg, Saxony Anhalt. **Fitzek had himself crowned "Peter I" in a ceremony complete with sceptre, orb, ermine gown and crown. He and his followers – estimated to number between 2,000 and 5,000 – openly reject the modern German state and dream of taking it over and replacing it with their own realm.** To this end the KRD already issues its own passports and has its own currency, the Engelgeld (angel money), and bank. It offers those interested in how to become what it calls a "system drop-out" seminars in how to do so for upwards of €340 (£295), and promises of freedom – including from paying taxes – as well as six-hour working days, and homeopathy rather than conventional medicine. Intelligence authorities have described the offering as a "huge scam." People are encouraged to part with their money in exchange for Engelgeld and are then unable to change it back, they say. BfV officers say they have been watching the KRD and its "anti-democratic expansion ambitions" in Rutenberg since early 2022. They warn of its plans to buy up further properties and entice people sympathetic to their cause to move in. They also report its strong connections to the Anastasia movement, a cult-like new age organisation with antisemitic leanings. Anastasia started in Russia in the late 1990s, and has been spreading elsewhere. The BfV says similar "Völkisch" (folkist or ethno-nationalist) land grabs are happening elsewhere in Germany, often in abandoned areas and neglected villages where life goes on largely unobserved. The pandemic lockdown only served to facilitate the group's quiet arrival in some parts. But Rutenberg is far from neglected, and a large number of its 200 residents, a mix of locals, retirees and Berlin weekend blow-ins, have taken up the fight against the settlers. Visitors to the village are met by defiant messages from its Democracy Alliance. Homemade banners on everything from the fire station to trees on the village green, to the 14th-century village church, read: "No Kingdom, No King, No Sects", and "Rutenberg's over 700 years old – never will it be a kingdom". Marita Berckner, a Rutenberger by birth, said she had been shocked to discover that the people who had moved into the grange nursed ambitions other than leading a simple, self-sufficient life. A BfV officer had briefed villagers at a meeting at the local church, she said. "We were stunned and speechless. It was like seeing the world break down in front of my own front door," she said. "We have nothing at all against people wanting to grow organic fruit and veg, but not people who intend to overthrow a democracy." The Democracy Alliance, said Berkner, had "brought the village together like never before".

'How is it possible in the middle of Germany that a state within a state can emerge?'

At almost exactly the same time that Rutenbergers were reeling from the discovery about their new neighbours, an altogether bigger revelation was making headlines around the world. German authorities announced that a separate armed rightwing extremist Reichsbürger group headed by the self-appointed Heinrich XIII, Prince Reuss, had planned a putsch, intending to storm the Bundestag, kidnap MPs and topple the state. In December, German prosecutors filed terrorism charges against more than two dozen people in connection with the plot, including Heinrich XIII and a former far-right lawmaker. Authorities estimate there are about 25,000 Reichsbürger and supporters of self-governance in Germany, and that numbers are steadily growing. "What drives someone to overthrow a democracy? How is it possible in the middle of Germany, that a state within a state can emerge?" said Berckner. The alliance has also approached estate agents warning them to be on the lookout for people acting as middlemen on behalf of the KRD. Local people are also debating whether they can afford to buy the

## Germany

# Far-right extremists stage rural land grab across Germany

## Reichsbürger movement aims to establish parallel societies by infiltrating schools, clubs and public offices

**Kate Connolly in Rutenberg**

Wed 27 Dec 2023 04.45 EST

A strategic rural land grab by rightwing extremists is taking place across Germany with the concerted aim of creating communities independent of the state, according to the domestic intelligence agency and government ministries.

**Authorities and NGOs monitoring far-right groups say the members of the Reichsbürger movement who reject the post-1945 German state are making a targeted effort to establish parallel societies and infiltrate existing structures including schools, clubs and public offices.** According to a recent request for information to the federal interior ministry by Martina Renner of the opposition leftwing Die Linke party, rightwing extremist organisations have bought 40 properties across Germany in the past two years. The figure indicates an acceleration of a pattern observed for more than a decade, in which hard-to-sell houses, pubs and farmland properties are being snapped up and used by the rightwing groups for everything from living space to birthing houses, sport halls and party venues. **"The properties are of less interest to Reichsbürger and the far-right scene as investments; rather they are utilised for establishing their parallel societies and creating spaces of fear for all those who don't share their view of the world,"** said Renner.



Member of European Parliament, **Clare Daly**, called Ursula Von Der Leyen "**Frau Genocide**".



### Irish Politician Attacks EU Commission Chief Over Gaza War; 'Overriding Elected Govts' Policies...

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251,085 views Dec 25, 2023 #ghazwaehind #gazasiege #israel An Irish MEP has accused the EU Commission President of escalating the war in Gaza . Member of European Parliament, Clare Daly, called Ursula Von Der Leyen "Frau Genocide". Daly added Von Der Leyen was elevated to power without a single vote from citizens. This after Von Der Leyen has repeatedly voiced support for Israel amid the war against hamas. Watch this to know more.

**Israeli–Palestinian conflict:** Daly condemned Israel's actions in the Gaza Strip during the 2023 Israel– Hamas war and accused Israel of committing genocide against the Palestinians in Gaza. On 10 November 2023, she criticized European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen for not calling for a ceasefire, saying that "Israel has spent a month pounding Gaza into rubble and filling the streets with children's blood. With European and American weapons, and European and American support. Still @vonderleyen cannot even say the word: 'ceasefire.'"

Clare Daly (born 16 April 1968) is an Irish politician who has been a Member of the European Parliament (MEP) from Ireland for the Dublin constituency since July 2019. She is a member of Independents 4 Change, part of The Left in the European Parliament – GUE/NGL. In the 1980s Daly was a member of the Labour Party as a teenager but was expelled alongside other members after being accused of being Trotskyists infiltrating the party using the tactic of entryism. She was subsequently a founding member of "Militant Labour", later known as the Socialist Party. In 1999 she was elected to Fingal County Council, a position she held for 12 years. Daly was elected as a Socialist Party TD for the Dublin North constituency at the 2011 general election. Since 2012, Daly has formed a close political association with Mick Wallace.[2] After Wallace was condemned by the Socialist Party for tax evasion, Daly resigned from the Socialist Party in August 2012[2][3] and redesignated herself as a United Left Alliance TD.[4] In 2015 she joined the Independents 4 Change. Since becoming an MEP, Daly has gained international attention for her foreign policy views, particularly regarding Russia and China. Her views have been the subject of controversy and criticism in Europe, but have received positive coverage in China, Russia and Syria.

Daly is from Newbridge, County Kildare. Her father, Kevin Daly, was a colonel in the Irish Army, where he was Director of Signals. She is an atheist, while her brother and an uncle are Catholic priests.[10] Daly studied accountancy at Dublin City University (DCU).[10] She was twice elected president of the Students' Union and was active in the students' movement as a campaigner for abortion rights and information. On leaving college she took a job in the catering section of Aer Lingus on a low wage,[10] and became SIPTU's shop steward at Dublin Airport when the airline was engaged in extensive cost-cutting and outsourcing. Daly initially joined the Labour Party, where she was elected to the party's Administrative Committee as a youth representative. A member of Labour's Militant Tendency, she was expelled from the party in 1989 alongside Joe Higgins and other supporters of the faction.[2] At first calling themselves Militant Labour, in 1996 they formed the Socialist Party

**Clare Daly**  
MEP



Daly in 2019

|   |
|---|
| Member of the European Parliament   |
| Incumbent   |
| Assumed office<br>2 July 2019   |
| Constituency<br>Dublin  |
| Teachta Dála  |
| In office<br>February 2016 – July 2019  |
| Constituency<br>Dublin Fingal   |
| In office<br>February 2011 – February 2016  |
| Constituency<br>Dublin North  |
| Personal details  |
| Born<br>16 April 1968 (age 55)<br>Newbridge, County Kildare, Ireland  |
| Political party<br>Ireland: I4C<br>EU: GUE/NGL  |
| Other political affiliations<br>United Left (2013–2015)<br>Socialist Party (1996–2012)<br>Labour Party (until 1989) |
| Spouse<br>Michael Murphy (m. 1999)  |
| Alma mater<br>Dublin City University  |
| Website<br>claredaly.ie   |



## 2 bitter wars with a long history and no solution in sight

DECEMBER 29, 2023 · 5:00 AM ET



Greg Myre



A Ukrainian soldier walks through a charred forest near the eastern town of Bakhmut in September. Despite heavy fighting in the Russia-Ukraine war this year, the front line has barely moved.

Mstyslav Chernov/AP



A clergyman with the Orthodox Church of Ukraine, Chaplain Ivan, conducts a liturgy for Ukrainian troops near the front line in the eastern town of Vuhledar on Dec. 15.

Valentyn Kuzan/AP

*Editor's Note: NPR's Greg Myre has covered many wars, and this year he's reported from both the Russia-Ukraine conflict and the Israel-Hamas fighting. As the year winds down, he offers this look at where these wars stand and the prospects for finding a permanent solution.*

When I called author and historian Anne Applebaum to talk about the wars currently raging, she took the long view and offered this stark assessment. **"I think we've reached the end of a particular period in history when it was even possible to talk about some kind of universal values or rules,"** said Applebaum. I've seen this lack of restraints when reporting on Russia's invasion in Ukraine. The evidence is the deserted Ukrainian towns and villages, the scorched homes, the abducted children and mass graves in communities across the country. Applebaum, who writes for *The Atlantic*, sees Russia's actions as part of a broader move by autocratic leaders and extremist groups that reject many of the norms established by Western nations in the aftermath of World War II, such as the Geneva Conventions. "The (Russian) tactics have been to hit civilians, hit sites of industrial production, hit the electricity grid, hit hospitals," she said. **"The war in Ukraine is really an attack on those laws, on that system itself."** In covering the Russia-Ukraine war and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict several recurring themes keep jumping out. Both wars stretch back generations. What we're witnessing is just the latest eruption. **Modern weaponry makes them deadlier, and accumulated hatreds make them harder than ever to resolve.** In its response, Israel's military says its operation in Gaza targets Hamas, not Palestinian civilians. Yet this is the fourth Israeli conflict I've covered. Israel has never unleashed such a massive bombing campaign in such a densely packed civilian area as it's doing daily in Gaza — with predictable results — the deaths of thousands of women and children.

The story of the intractable Israeli-Palestinian feud is well known. Far fewer know the history of the Russia-Ukraine dispute. Ukraine declared independence from Russia shortly after the 1917 Russian Revolution, but didn't manage to breakaway until the Soviet Union crumbled in 1991. **That Ukrainian independence has been under assault since Russia's Vladimir Putin invaded in 2014.** Dmitri Alperovitch, who was born in Russia, now heads a Washington think tank, the *Silverado Policy Accelerator*. He's a fierce critic of Putin. **"For Putin, it's really not about whether he can capture a village and keep it occupied,"** said Alperovitch. **"His determination from day one has been to control Ukraine, to prevent Ukraine from being part of the Western alliance."** Ukraine wants to recapture lost territory. More importantly, he says, it seeks the long-term protection that would come with membership in NATO. "What Ukraine really wants is stability and security for its country to prevent another invasion from Russia. And that's much more challenging to achieve," said Alperovitch, author of the forthcoming book, *World on the Brink: The United States, China, and the Race for the 21st Century*.

**The U.S. plays a critical role in both wars, yet may not be able to forge the outcome it wants in either conflict. Today there are calls for cease-fires and peace talks. But both wars are a long, long way from there to a permanent solution.**



## 2 bitter wars with a long history and no solution in sight

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A Palestinian man carries a child for burial in the southern Gaza city of Rafah on Dec. 22. Israel's bombing campaign has killed more than 20,000 Palestinians in the territory, most of them women and children, according to health officials in Gaza.

Hatem Ali/AP



Israeli soldiers carry the coffin of Sgt. Lavi Ghasi, 19, at his funeral in Modiin, Israel, on Dec. 21.

Ariel Schalit/AP

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SHOTS - HEALTH NEWS

## More states extend health coverage to immigrants even as issue inflames GOP

KFF HEALTH NEWS

More than 1 million immigrants, most lacking permanent legal status, are covered by state health programs. Several states, including GOP-led Utah, will soon add or expand such coverage.



Chandan Khanna/AFP via Getty Images

A growing number of states are opening taxpayer-funded **health insurance** programs to immigrants, including those living in the U.S. without authorization, even as Republicans assail President Joe Biden over a dramatic increase in illegal crossings of the southern border.

Eleven states and Washington, D.C., together provide full health insurance coverage to more than 1 million low-income immigrants regardless of their legal status, according to state data compiled by KFF Health News. Most aren't authorized to live in the U.S., state officials say.

Enrollment in these programs could nearly double by 2025 as at least seven states initiate or expand coverage. In January, Republican-controlled Utah will start covering children regardless of immigration status, while New York and California will widen eligibility to cover more adults.

"These are kids, and we have a heart," said Utah state Rep. Jim Dunnigan, a Republican who initially opposed his state's plan to cover children lacking legal status but relented after compromises including a cap on enrollment.

There are more than 10 million people living in the U.S. without authorization, according to estimates by the Pew Research Center. Immigrant advocates and academic experts point to two factors behind state leaders' rising interest in providing health care to this population: The pandemic highlighted the importance of insurance coverage to control the spread of infectious diseases; and some states are focusing on people without legal status to further drive down the country's record-low uninsured rate.

CLIMATE

## Wildfire smoke this year woke up places unaccustomed to its effects. Now what?

Wildfires worsened by climate change spewed smoke over much of North America this year. It's a new reality Americans haven't yet processed: how dangerous the smoke is for human health.



David Dee Delgado/Getty Images

This summer, millions of people across the eastern U.S. woke up one June morning to apocalyptic orange skies and thick, choking **wildfire smoke**. Over the summer, massive Canadian wildfires blanketed central and eastern North America with smoke that lingered on and off for months, sending hundreds of people to the hospital. The unprecedented smoke, which showed up in parts of the country where it had never before been a problem, highlighted the growing and inescapable health risks from climate-related issues. And it showed how far many places have to go to help people protect themselves from the risks. "The research coming out clearly shows that wildfire smoke is more toxic than air pollution from other sources," says Kristi Ebi, a climate and health expert at the University of Washington. This year, she says, underscored the importance of understanding those risks, but also exposed gaps in current understanding. For instance, it's still not clear how heavy exposure can affect health years down the line.



# Huge surf pounds West Coast and Hawaii, flooding some low-lying areas

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Powerful surf rolled onto beaches on the West Coast and Hawaii on Thursday as a big swell generated by the stormy Pacific Ocean pushed toward shorelines, causing localized flooding.

*Beachgoers watch as turbulent surf pounds the coast at Manhattan Beach on Thursday, Dec. 28, 2023 in Manhattan Beach, Calif. (AP Photo/Richard Vogel)*







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Israel-Hamas war Trump ballot ban Pistons make NBA history University chancellor fired Cher's son's conservatorship

### Punishing their own but passing few laws, a Congress in chaos leaves much to do in 2024

This Congress started with showy bluster, a bitter 15-round, multi-day spectacle to elect a House speaker who vowed to "never quit," and then did just that.

#### MORE ELECTION NEWS

- Trust is low and pessimism up before the Republican primaries, an AP-NORC poll finds
- Nikki Haley doesn't mention slavery when asked what caused the Civil War. She later walks that back
- Boebert switches congressional districts, avoiding a Democratic opponent who has far outraised her



### Mark Cuban says the changing NBA landscape led to his sale of the Mavs to casino families

The NBA approved Cuban's sale of a controlling interest in the Mavericks to the Adelson and Dumont families, who run Las Vegas Sands Corp. **Miriam Adelson, widow of casino magnate Sheldon Adelson.** Sheldon Gary Adelson (August 4, 1933 – January 11, 2021) was an Israeli-American businessman, investor, political donor. He was also a **major backer of Israel's prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu.**



### As social media guardrails fade and AI deepfakes go mainstream, experts warn of impact on elections

Trump says he didn't know his immigration rhetoric echoes Hitler. That's part of a broader pattern

With the Supreme Court on sideline for now, Trump's lawyers press immunity claims before lower court







Associated Press reporter Gary Fields poses for a portrait at a public park, Wednesday, Dec. 20, 2023, in Washington. (AP Photo/Mark Schiefelbein)



**Perspective:  
Children born  
poor have little  
margin for  
mistakes or bad  
decisions,  
regardless of race**



42 mins ago

**My first cousin, Alfred King** was lying in the parking lot of a small apartment building, mortally wounded when police in Alexandria, Louisiana got to him on January 20, 2023.

He came into the world on the bottom economic rung and, when he was 13, a critical decision was made that likely kept him there. (Dec. 29)

**Poverty** isn't the purview of one race. Neither is violent death. Socioeconomics is a good predictor for victimhood and criminal justice involvement, as well as deficient healthcare and educational outcomes. If you are born into a certain economic class everything goes towards basics: food, rent, utilities, clothing. I have seen kids born into circumstances they didn't ask for, lives without margin for errors or bad luck. I pray for them and the millions of kids like them, regardless of race or ethnicity, that everything goes right and they reach escape velocity.





where is the recession?



Forbes

<https://www.forbes.com> > [johntharvey](#) > 2023/12/04

## Where Is The Recession?

Dec 4, 2023 — You can see here that the downturn in the first half of 2022 was relatively mild compared to those that followed the Financial Crisis and Covid- ...

### People also ask

Are we in a recession right now 2023?

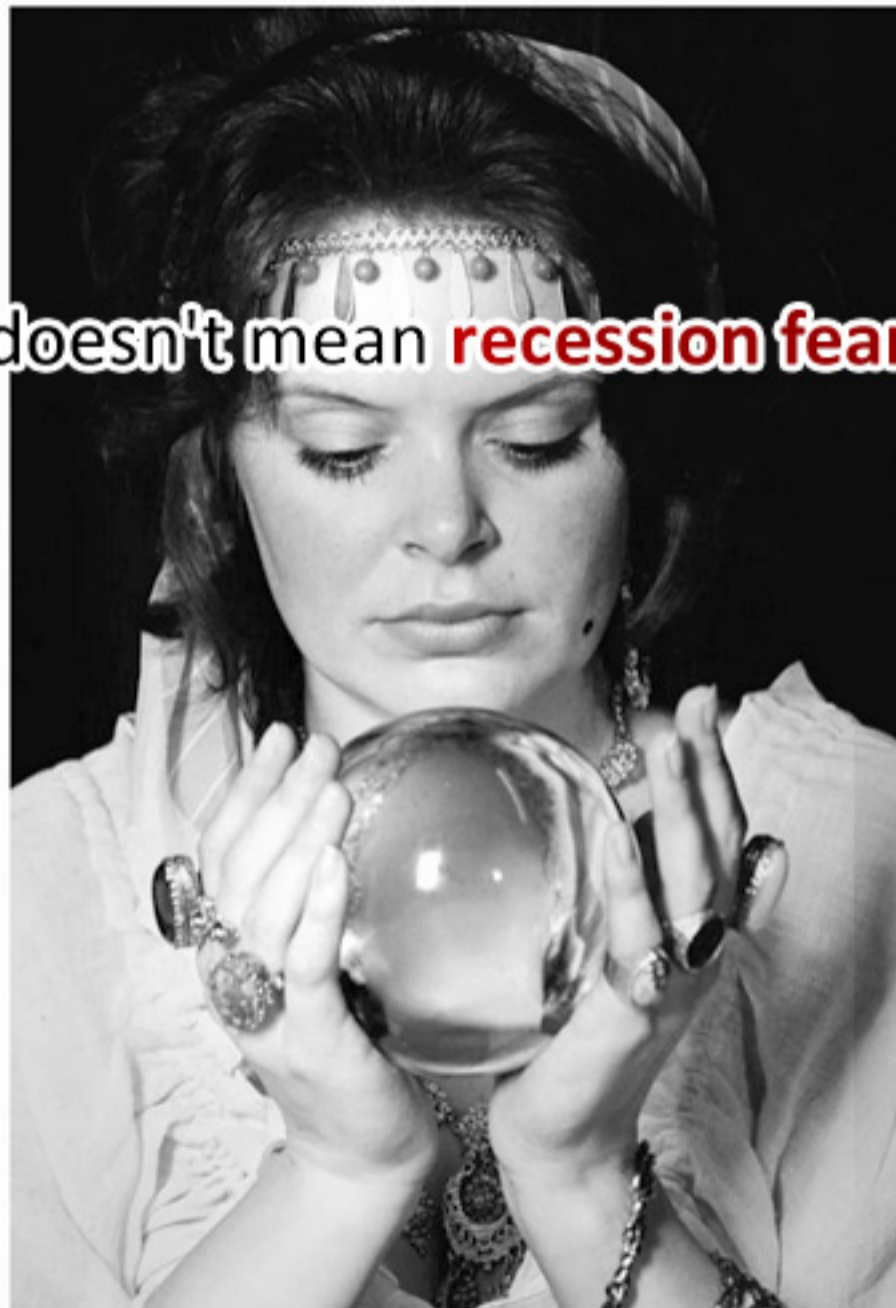
In October of last year, her model of the US economy showed a 100% chance of a recession happening in 2023. But, here we are more than 12 months later, and US economic data keeps coming in relatively strong. Unemployment remains near multi-decade lows and inflation is pretty close to the Federal Reserve's 2% target. Dec 21, 2023



Bloomberg

<https://www.bloomberg.com> > news > articles > this-is-...

## This Is Why We Didn't Have a Recession in 2023 - Bloomberg



... that doesn't mean **recession fears** are over.

Confused about the economy? You're not alone.



It wasn't too long ago that a lot of experts were fearing a recession. It hasn't quite turned out that way – but that doesn't mean recession fears are over.

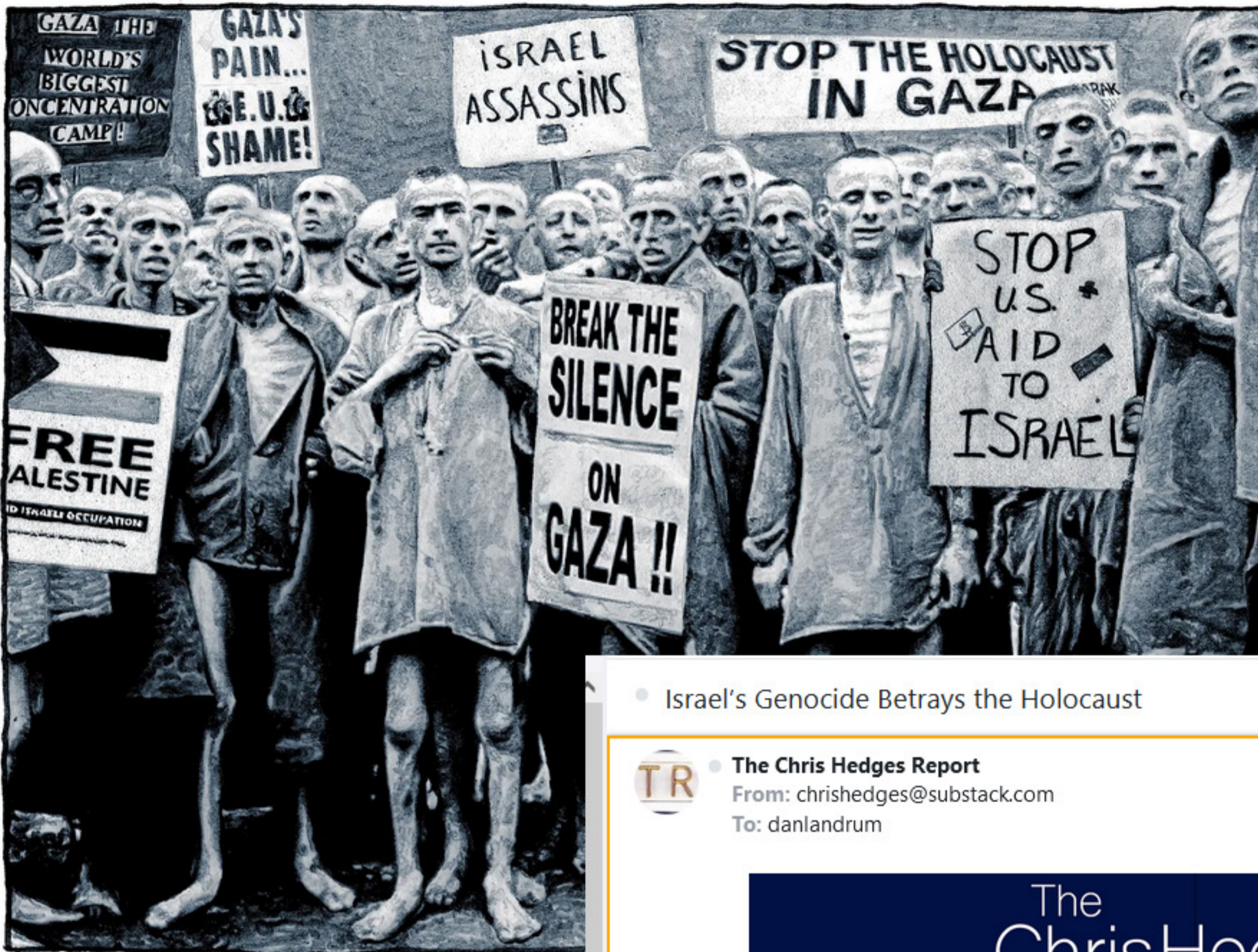
### Where Is The Recession? by John T. Harvey, Dec 4, 2023

It's hard to believe that this time last year, the fact that real gross domestic product had fallen for two consecutive quarters was fueling fears that a recession was on the horizon. But not only did the expected downturn never materialize, the data for 2023 Q3 show the fastest growth in almost two years. How did the economy dodge that bullet? Easy, it turns out there wasn't a bullet in the first place. Personally, I've actually been much more concerned about investment spending, which has contributed negatively in three of the last six quarters. However it, too, has recovered. And so we enter the fourth quarter with a slightly rising but still envious rate of unemployment and no clear downward trends in any of the variables that drive GDP. A recession really wasn't looming in 2022, nor is one now.

### This Is Why We Didn't Have a Recession in 2023 by Tracy Alloway, Joe Weisenthal, and Aashna Shah. December 21, 2023

This time last year, almost everyone was calling for a recession to engulf the US economy in 2023. One of those forecasters was Anna Wong, Chief US Economist for Bloomberg Economics. In October of last year, her model of the US economy showed a 100% chance of a recession happening in 2023. But, here we are more than 12 months later, and US economic data keeps coming in relatively strong. Unemployment remains near multi-decade lows and inflation is pretty close to the Federal Reserve's 2% target. Yet there are still some confusing signals about the economy's overall direction, including surveys showing that many people are extremely pessimistic in their economic outlook. In this episode we speak with Anna about how she's thinking about the conflicting signals in the US economy, why recession didn't materialize in 2023 in the way many people thought it would, and what she's looking out for next year.





Israel's lebensraum master plan for Gaza, borrowed from the Nazi's depopulation of Jewish ghettos, is clear. Destroy infrastructure, medical facilities and sanitation, including access to clean water. Block shipments of food and fuel. Unleash indiscriminate industrial violence to kill and wound hundreds a day. Let starvation — the U.N. estimates that more than half a million people are already starving — and epidemics of infectious diseases, along with the daily massacres and the displacement of Palestinians from their homes, turn Gaza into a mortuary. The Palestinians are being forced to choose between death from bombs, disease, exposure or starvation or being driven from their homeland. There will soon reach a point where death will be so ubiquitous that deportation - for those who want to live - will be the only option.

• Israel's Genocide Betrays the Holocaust

Yahoo/Inbox ☆



• **The Chris Hedges Report**  
 From: chrishedges@substack.com  
 To: danlandrum

Fri, Dec 29 at 1:37 PM ☆



## Israel's Genocide Betrays the Holocaust

By obscuring and falsifying the lessons of the Holocaust we perpetuate the evil that defined it.

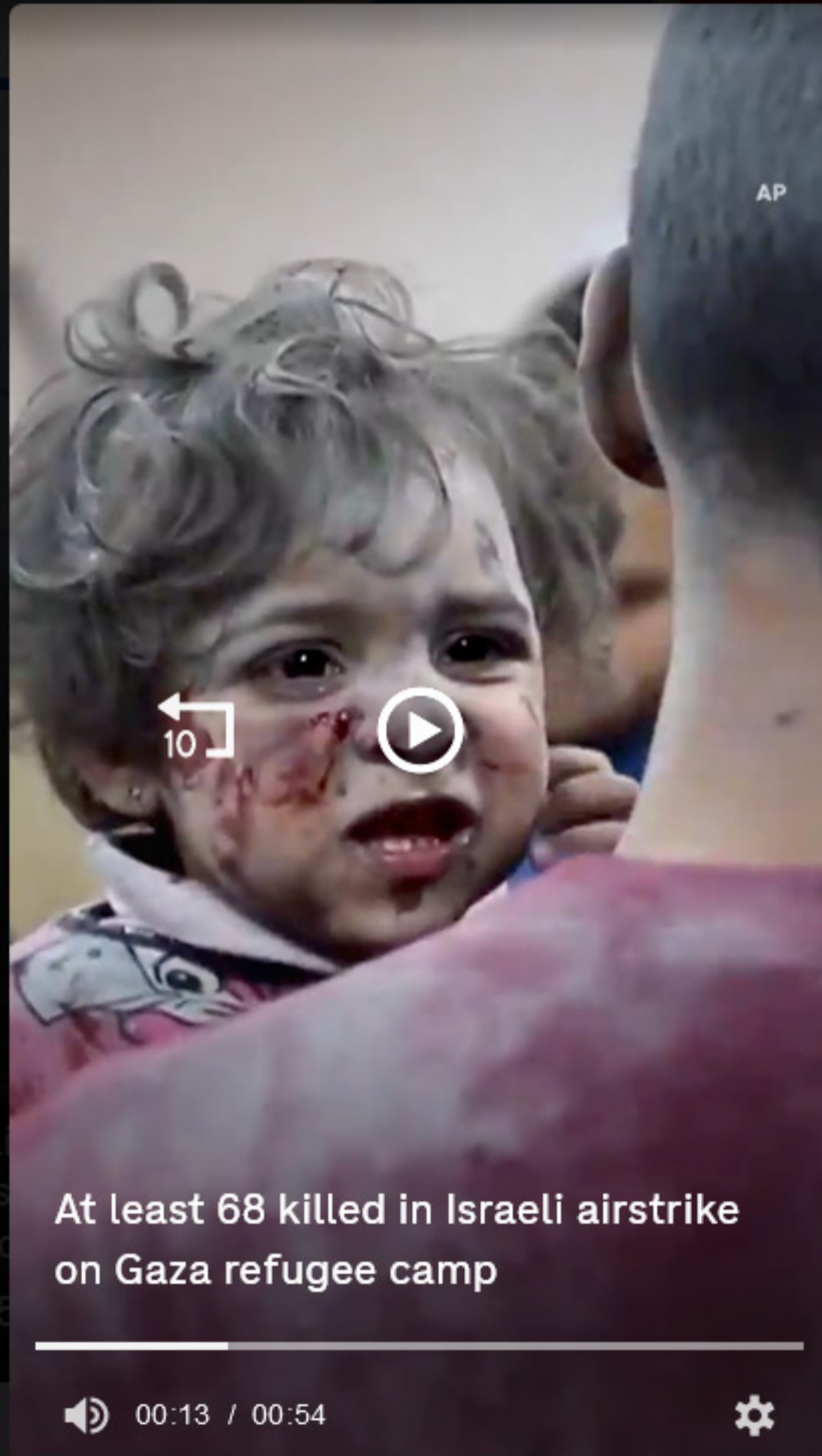
CHRIS HEDGES  
 DEC 29



Never Again and Again and Again - by Mr. Fish

The Holocaust was weaponized from almost the moment Israel was founded. It was bastardized to serve the apartheid state. If we forget the lessons of the Holocaust, we forget who we are and what we are capable of becoming. We seek our moral worth in the past, rather than the present. We condemn others, including the Palestinians, to an endless cycle of slaughter. We become the evil we abhor. We consecrate the horror.





At least 68 killed in Israeli airstrike on Gaza refugee camp

00:13 / 00:54







# Airstrikes hit camps in central Gaza as Biden administration approves new weapons sales to Israel



At least 68 killed in Israeli airstrike on Gaza refugee camp

00:13 / 00:54



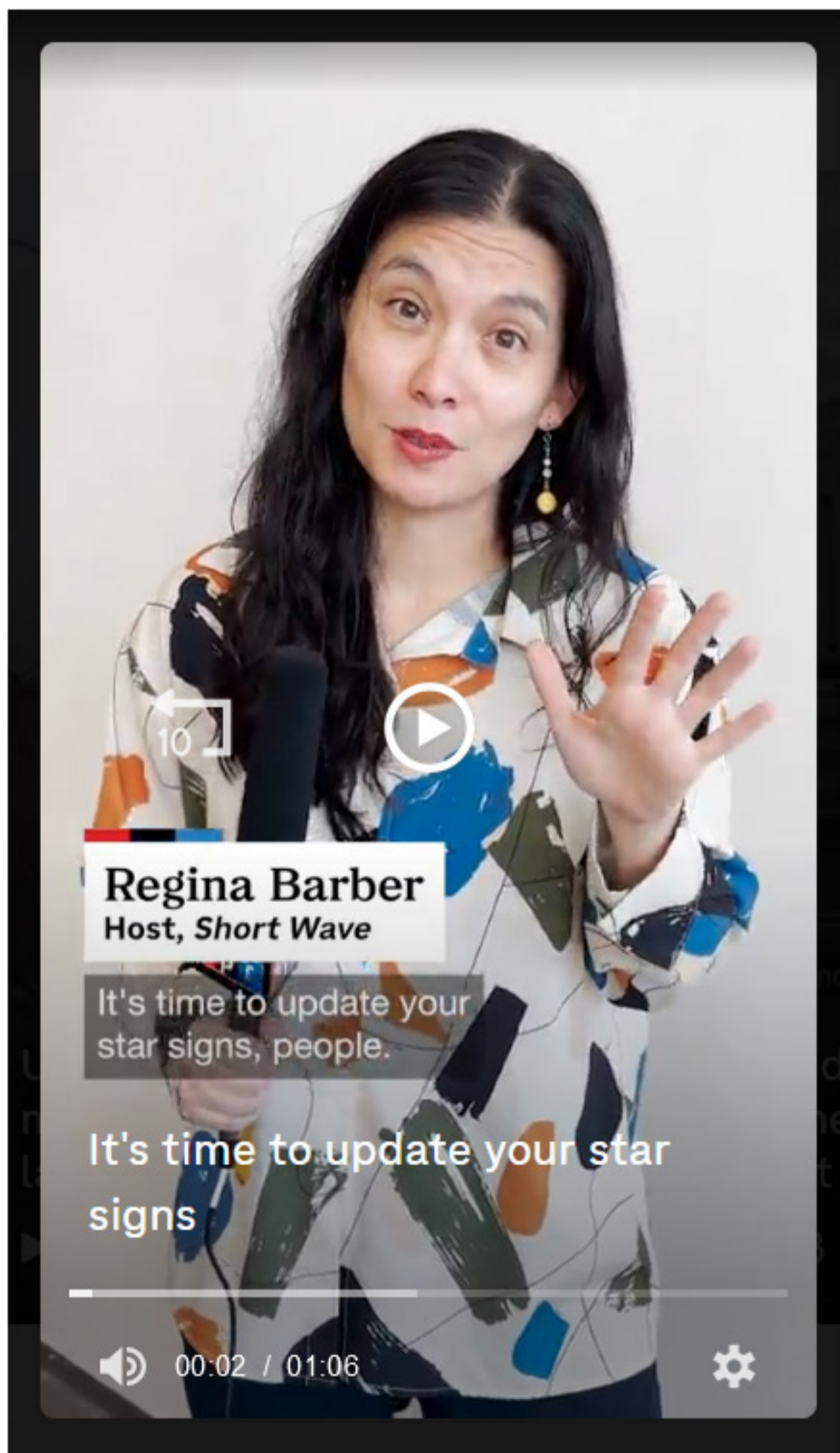
DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — Israeli warplanes struck two urban refugee camps in central Gaza on Saturday, as the Biden administration approved a new emergency weapons sale to Israel despite persistent international cease-fire calls over mounting civilian deaths, hunger and mass displacement in the enclave.



### Think you're a Taurus?

*Earth's wobble sees things differently*

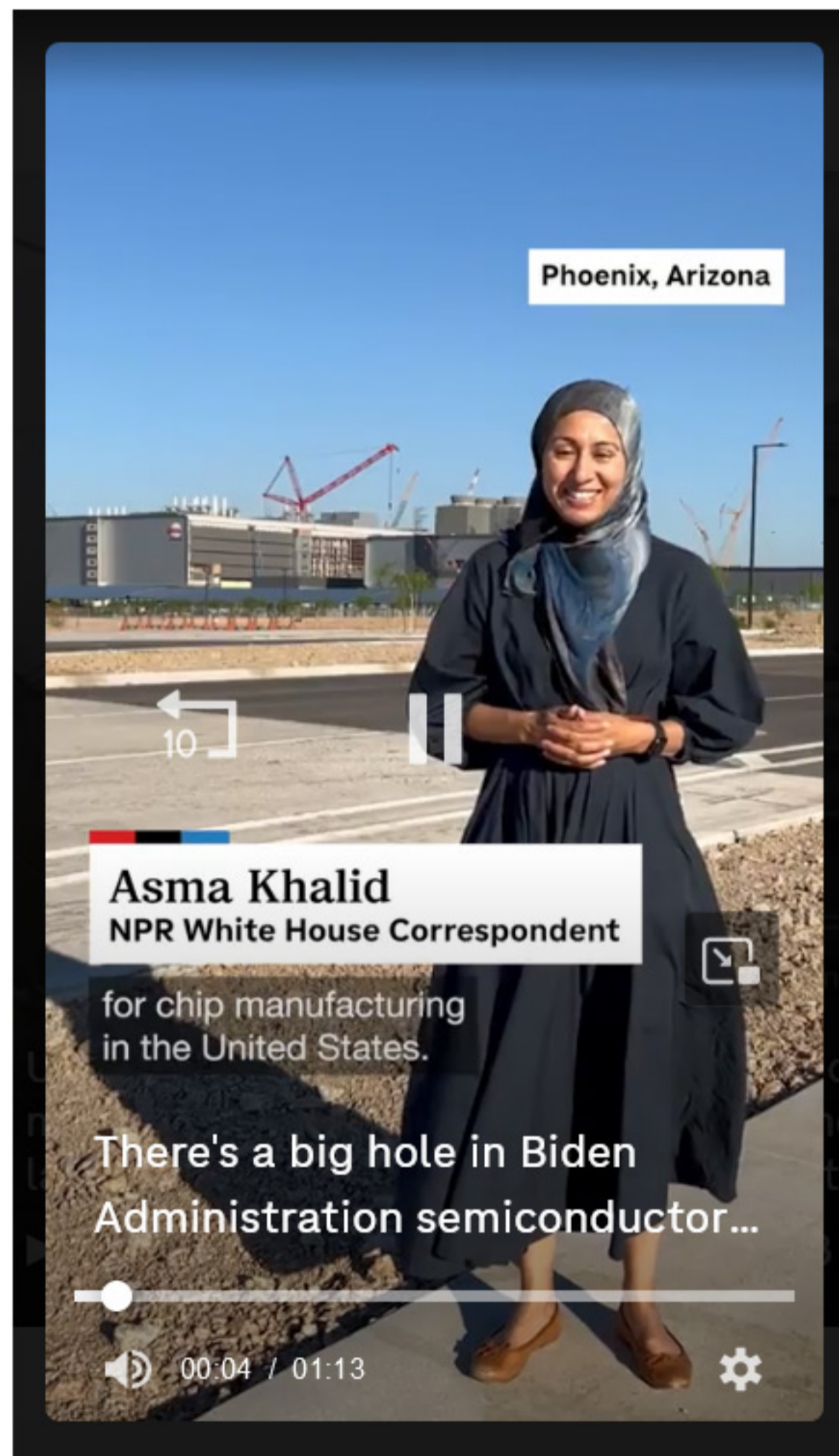
May 4, 2023 | Regina G. Barber



### Biden has big plans for semiconductors.

*But there's a big hole: not enough workers*

December 19, 2023 | Asma Khalid



Over 2,000 years ago, the Babylonians mapped these constellations and later the Greeks built on that work to create the zodiac we have today. But here's what might surprise you — and what delights me as an astrophysicist: The positions of the stars have changed since then, not because the stars themselves have moved around, but because Earth's view of them has changed.

There's a huge shortage of engineering grads. The industry is worried about filling the gap on time. The Biden administration is working with industry to boost training. One attempt to fill the gap is the community college program in Arizona's Maricopa County. It's one of over 50 community college programs that have sprung up around the nation, responding to a boom in the industry connected to President Biden signing the CHIPS and Science Act into law last year.



# Think you're a Taurus? Earth's **wobble** sees things differently

MAY 4, 2023 · 5:00 AM ET



Regina G. Barber

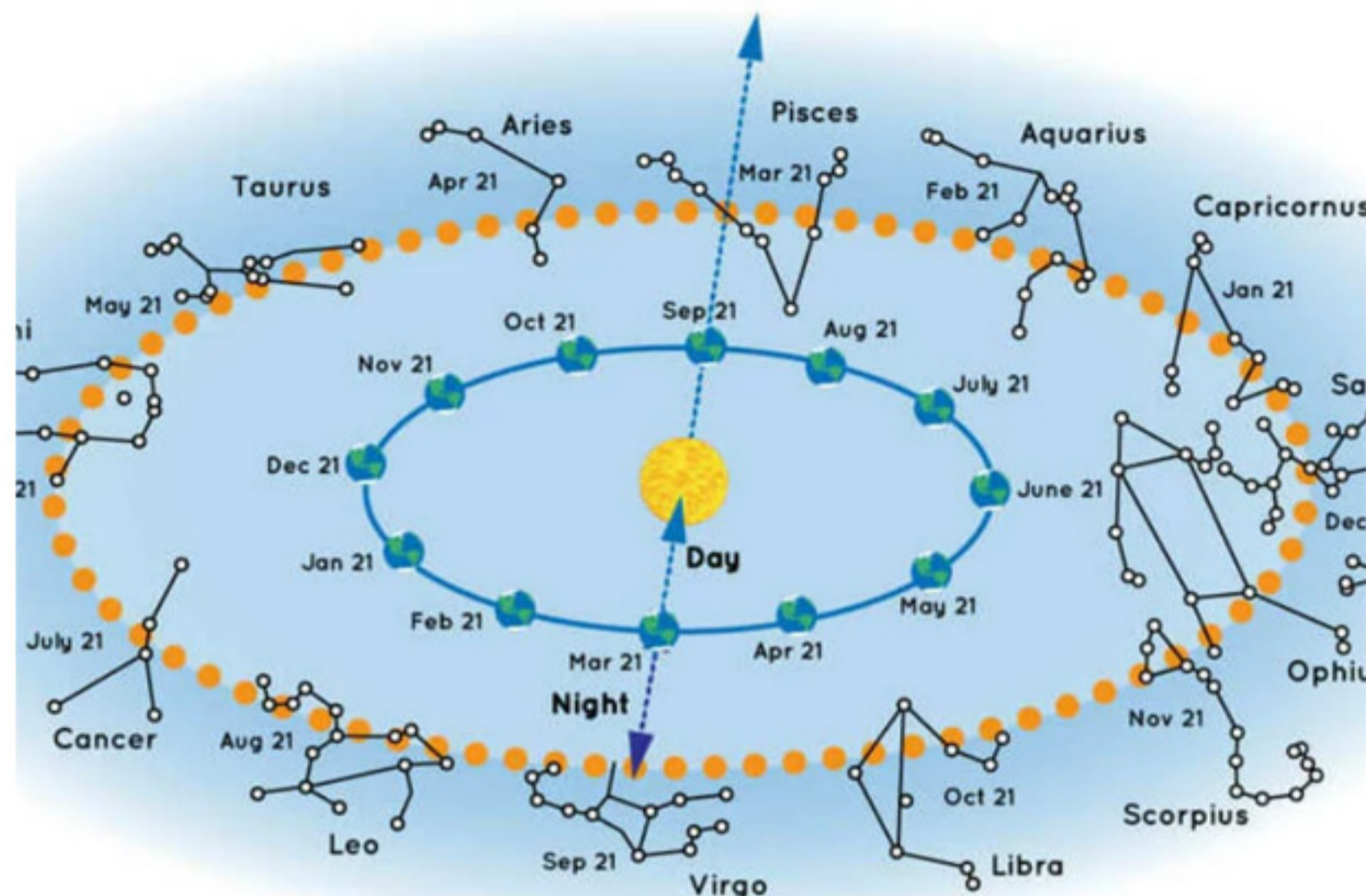
## But first of all, what is the zodiac?

It's the collection of constellations that go along with our horoscopes, but it is also the physical path that the sun takes in the sky over the course of a year. Here's how planetary scientist (and full disclosure, my good friend) Melissa Rice puts it: "The zodiac is the 12 constellations that the sun passes through in its motions across the sky. And because there are 12 of them and 12 months in the year, it's convenient for us to associate time with the position of the sun in these specific constellations." And when you're born, whatever constellation is behind the sun during Earth's yearlong orbit is your sign. "So if you are a Taurus, then the sun and the Earth would form a straight line pointing at the constellation Taurus," says Rice, who's also a NASA Team member and has worked on all the Mars rovers except the first.

Over 2,000 years ago, the Babylonians mapped these constellations and later the Greeks built on that work to create the zodiac we have today. But here's what might surprise you — and what delights me as an astrophysicist: The positions of the stars have changed since then, not because the stars themselves have moved around, but because Earth's view of them has changed.

## A new night sky comes into view

Imagine a spinning top that starts to tilt and then points at an angle. That angle is also tracing out a circle. This is essentially what's happening to Earth, what's known as "precession." In fact, our planet's tilt is making this circle over the course of 26,000 years, which is why the North Star, or Polaris, won't be our North Star forever. In 12,000 years, it will be another star, Vega. All of this means that over time humans are seeing a shifted night sky, marching forward from our ancestors. So if your birthday is this week, I'm sorry to say — you are not actually a Taurus! The sun wasn't in your constellation when you were born. Thanks to precession, it was really in Aries. This is related to why horoscopes talk about certain periods of time, called "ages." Each age is associated with a specific constellation that the Earth's tilt is pointing toward at that time. 2,000 years ago, soon after the zodiac was first created, we were in the Age of Pisces.



Some of the constellations that are visible from the Northern Hemisphere at different times of the year. NASA/JPL-Caltech

*"Since then, everything has shifted forward one sign, so one age," says Rice. "Guess what age we're going to enter next?" Yes, we're talking about the Age of Aquarius.*

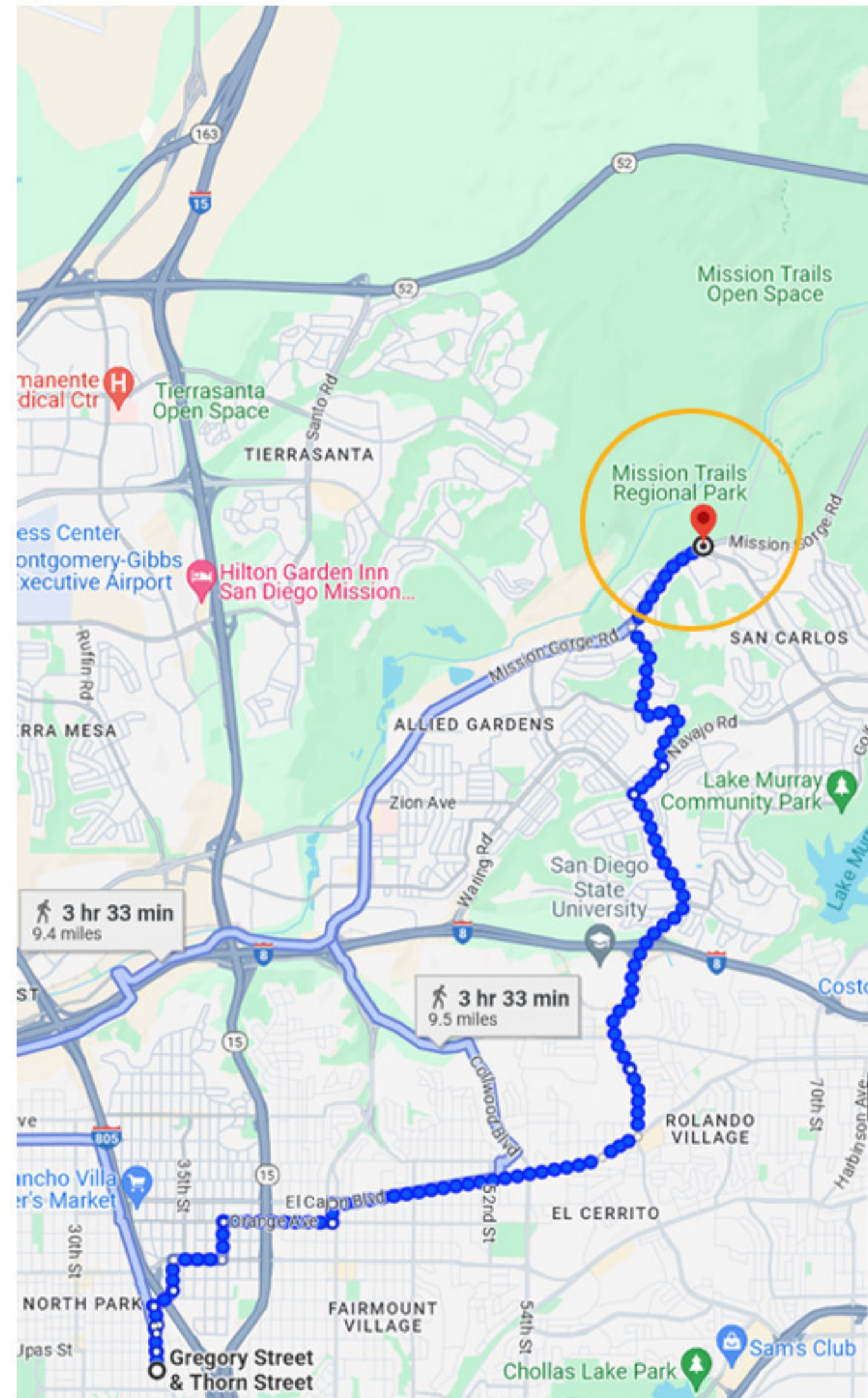
## Mercury in motion

Finally, let's talk about the ominous phrase, "Mercury in retrograde." This is a real scientific thing and it's happening right now.

From April 24 to May 14, Mercury will appear to move in one direction and then, after days of observation, it will seem to slow down and move in the other direction. Over the course of three weeks, it will trace out a loop shape in the sky. Rice compares this retrograde motion to when you pass someone on the highway. "You're both driving forwards. You're both going at pretty high speeds. But if you're passing them, you're going at a slightly higher speed, and it looks like they're going backwards," she says. "It's like both planets, the Earth and Mercury, are still moving forward in their orbits around the sun, but the Earth just overtakes Mercury for a short time." Which is all to say, **our reality can change when perceptions shift**. These horoscope constellations aren't really moving in the sky, it's the Earth's view of them that has changed. So like life, in space, change can sometimes be a matter of perspective.



| Day         | Jan     | Feb     | Mar      | Apr      | May      | Jun      | Jul      | Aug      | Sep      | Oct      | Nov      | Dec      |
|-------------|---------|---------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 1           | 1.27    | 0.00    | 0.57     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.01     | 0.00     | 0.02     |
| 2           | 0.04    | 0.00    | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.02     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     |
| 3           | 0.13    | 0.00    | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     |
| 4           | 0.05    | 0.00    | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.22     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     |
| 5           | 0.24    | 0.00    | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.01     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     |
| 6           | 0.00    | 0.00    | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     |
| 7           | 0.00    | 0.00    | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     |
| 8           | 0.00    | 0.00    | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     |
| 9           | 0.00    | 0.00    | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     |
| 10          | 0.32    | 0.00    | 0.65     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.03     | 0.00     | 0.00     |
| 11          | 0.00    | 0.00    | 0.18     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.02     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.03     | 0.00     | 0.00     |
| 12          | 0.00    | 0.37    | 0.02     | 0.02     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     |
| 13          | 0.00    | 0.03    | 0.00     | 0.10     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     |
| 14          | 1.28    | 0.00    | 0.11     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     |
| 15          | 0.83    | 0.01    | 1.20     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.24     | 0.00     |
| 16          | 1.19    | 0.00    | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.01     | 0.00     |
| 17          | 0.18    | 0.00    | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.24     | 0.00     |
| 18          | 0.00    | 0.00    | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.01     | 0.01     |
| 19          | 0.13    | 0.00    | 0.11     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.01     | 0.00     |
| 20          | 0.01    | 0.01    | 0.06     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 1.64     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.05     |
| 21          | 0.00    | 0.06    | 1.35     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.01     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     |
| 22          | 0.00    | 0.14    | 0.20     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.02     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.32     |
| 23          | 0.00    | 0.13    | 0.18     | 0.00     | 0.01     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     |
| 24          | 0.00    | 0.01    | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.01     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.01     | 0.00     |
| 25          | 0.00    | 1.24    | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     |
| 26          | 0.00    | 0.02    | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     |
| 27          | 0.00    | 0.04    | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     |
| 28          | 0.00    | 0.06    | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     |
| 29          | 0.11    |         | 0.34     | 0.00     | 0.01     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     |
| 30          | 0.33    |         | 0.35     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.05     | 0.11     |
| 31          | 0.03    |         | 0.01     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.00     | 0.07     |
| Rain Days   | 15      | 12      | 14       | 2        | 5        | 1        | 0        | 2        | 2        | 3        | 7        | 5        |
| Month Total | 6.14 in | 2.12 in | 5.33 in  | 0.12 in  | 0.26 in  | 0.02 in  | 0.00 in  | 1.65 in  | 0.04 in  | 0.07 in  | 0.57 in  | 0.51 in  |
| YTD Total   | 6.14 in | 8.26 in | 13.59 in | 13.71 in | 13.97 in | 13.99 in | 13.99 in | 15.64 in | 15.68 in | 15.75 in | 16.32 in | 16.83 in |



Color Key

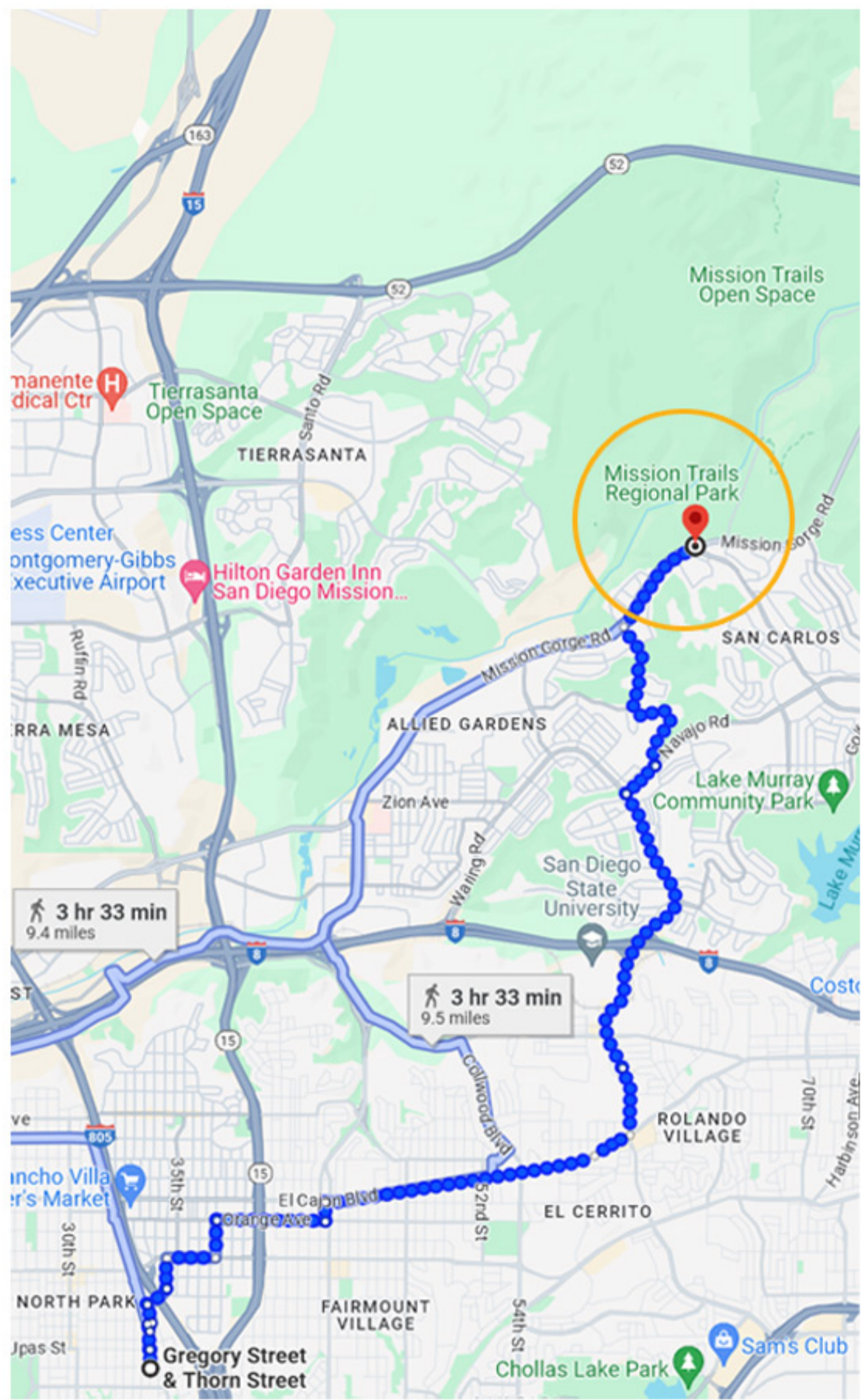
|        |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |        |
|--------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------|
| < 0.25 | 0.25 - 0.50 | 0.50 - 0.75 | 0.75 - 1.00 | 1.00 - 1.25 | 1.25 - 1.50 | 1.50 - 1.75 | 1.75 - 2.00 | 2.00 - 2.25 | 2.25 - 2.50 | 2.50 - 2.75 | 2.75 - 3.00 | 3.00 > |
|--------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------|



| Day      | Jan  |      | Feb  |      | Mar  |      | Apr  |      | May  |      | Jun  |      | Jul  |      | Aug  |      | Sep  |      | Oct  |      | Nov  |      | Dec  |      |
|----------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
|          | Hi   | Lo   | Hi   | Lo   | Hi   | Lo   | Hi   | Lo   | Hi   | Lo   | Hi   | Lo   | Hi   | Lo   | Hi   | Lo   | Hi   | Lo   | Hi   | Lo   | Hi   | Lo   | Hi   | Lo   |
| 1        | 56.6 | 49.7 | 64.0 | 35.7 | 53.1 | 39.1 | 71.3 | 40.2 | 64.6 | 53.2 | 65.5 | 57.5 | 83.3 | 60.6 | 91.8 | 68.3 | 84.0 | 64.7 | 72.5 | 54.3 | 84.0 | 43.5 | 63.4 | 46.1 |
| 2        | 58.0 | 44.8 | 68.0 | 34.1 | 60.8 | 33.3 | 67.3 | 41.2 | 66.3 | 49.5 | 73.2 | 57.0 | 88.0 | 56.9 | 91.6 | 64.3 | 82.4 | 69.7 | 74.8 | 49.2 | 84.0 | 44.1 | 65.4 | 39.9 |
| 3        | 57.5 | 50.5 | 68.0 | 41.7 | 62.5 | 35.4 | 60.5 | 48.6 | 68.0 | 45.3 | 74.7 | 58.3 | 84.7 | 59.8 | 84.2 | 60.8 | 81.0 | 67.2 | 81.7 | 50.2 | 81.0 | 44.4 | 67.0 | 39.4 |
| 4        | 65.2 | 56.1 | 68.1 | 36.7 | 59.3 | 36.1 | 60.7 | 36.3 | 65.8 | 50.9 | 75.2 | 59.4 | 85.4 | 59.0 | 85.4 | 60.2 | 78.8 | 61.1 | 87.2 | 51.9 | 82.0 | 44.4 | 70.8 | 42.5 |
| 5        | 58.3 | 51.1 | 61.3 | 39.8 | 59.9 | 43.7 | 66.3 | 37.2 | 65.9 | 50.3 | 68.5 | 57.9 | 83.7 | 56.7 | 87.7 | 61.2 | 74.8 | 59.7 | 95.4 | 54.1 | 84.2 | 44.6 | 76.9 | 44.1 |
| 6        | 60.6 | 43.7 | 62.3 | 41.4 | 60.9 | 40.8 | 74.4 | 38.4 | 69.7 | 47.6 | 72.4 | 53.7 | 78.9 | 54.9 | 89.5 | 58.5 | 82.1 | 60.9 | 93.1 | 54.8 | 73.5 | 45.9 | 72.1 | 43.8 |
| 7        | 65.6 | 39.6 | 69.4 | 35.6 | 62.5 | 42.5 | 71.1 | 41.9 | 73.0 | 45.1 | 71.7 | 57.6 | 79.4 | 57.0 | 91.2 | 58.0 | 86.9 | 57.9 | 92.0 | 54.3 | 70.6 | 52.7 | 64.6 | 47.2 |
| 8        | 66.2 | 41.1 | 71.9 | 37.8 | 62.1 | 37.3 | 71.6 | 42.7 | 73.3 | 51.5 | 73.4 | 58.7 | 78.6 | 55.9 | 92.0 | 64.1 | 96.0 | 61.6 | 88.8 | 56.6 | 72.1 | 47.2 | 64.2 | 42.9 |
| 9        | 66.8 | 43.6 | 79.5 | 38.5 | 69.1 | 40.8 | 70.7 | 50.2 | 71.1 | 54.0 | 71.2 | 58.7 | 81.0 | 58.7 | 86.0 | 64.3 | 94.8 | 64.7 | 83.0 | 60.8 | 75.3 | 40.5 | 72.6 | 39.6 |
| 10       | 61.7 | 47.5 | 76.5 | 37.4 | 65.2 | 44.3 | 76.1 | 49.5 | 70.7 | 49.5 | 67.0 | 59.3 | 86.0 | 58.1 | 82.9 | 68.0 | 93.6 | 67.4 | 75.8 | 61.6 | 77.7 | 39.0 | 71.8 | 35.5 |
| 11       | 59.3 | 43.0 | 60.8 | 41.1 | 61.6 | 55.8 | 73.0 | 52.7 | 70.8 | 54.8 | 65.4 | 57.4 | 91.9 | 57.3 | 80.7 | 65.5 | 89.5 | 67.9 | 74.2 | 59.9 | 76.8 | 39.3 | 70.9 | 38.7 |
| 12       | 71.3 | 41.9 | 58.8 | 39.4 | 66.9 | 54.9 | 59.0 | 52.4 | 72.3 | 57.5 | 70.8 | 58.1 | 95.0 | 62.7 | 83.9 | 63.5 | 84.2 | 64.7 | 77.7 | 54.4 | 80.9 | 42.6 | 63.9 | 38.1 |
| 13       | 68.8 | 41.6 | 61.0 | 42.8 | 67.5 | 49.5 | 52.6 | 49.8 | 75.1 | 57.7 | 69.1 | 59.5 | 94.7 | 63.1 | 83.4 | 62.5 | 76.9 | 60.8 | 77.7 | 53.6 | 77.4 | 43.0 | 65.1 | 44.9 |
| 14       | 59.0 | 45.0 | 54.0 | 34.7 | 66.3 | 48.5 | 63.5 | 46.8 | 73.6 | 57.7 | 73.0 | 59.3 | 91.1 | 61.0 | 85.0 | 63.4 | 79.5 | 61.2 | 81.8 | 56.9 | 78.2 | 43.7 | 70.5 | 39.3 |
| 15       | 58.7 | 51.7 | 59.7 | 34.7 | 59.6 | 50.7 | 70.5 | 46.8 | 76.2 | 56.0 | 75.5 | 59.5 | 85.2 | 64.7 | 87.0 | 62.7 | 76.8 | 62.5 | 88.3 | 52.0 | 67.2 | 50.0 | 68.3 | 37.9 |
| 16       | 57.4 | 46.0 | 62.8 | 31.4 | 63.2 | 44.8 | 58.9 | 48.5 | 79.0 | 56.2 | 80.1 | 60.4 | 86.2 | 61.7 | 91.6 | 64.1 | 70.9 | 64.9 | 82.0 | 52.2 | 71.9 | 54.4 | 75.5 | 42.2 |
| 17       | 55.1 | 40.5 | 65.8 | 34.5 | 66.2 | 43.8 | 64.8 | 51.9 | 70.6 | 55.5 | 80.6 | 57.6 | 93.6 | 64.6 | 91.2 | 63.3 | 70.3 | 63.5 | 81.1 | 55.4 | 74.7 | 49.5 | 73.4 | 40.7 |
| 18       | 58.6 | 37.4 | 67.6 | 37.1 | 79.4 | 42.7 | 66.1 | 51.1 | 74.7 | 53.0 | 77.1 | 59.0 | 91.3 | 63.3 | 86.4 | 61.5 | 77.4 | 58.3 | 80.8 | 57.0 | 68.5 | 55.0 | 72.1 | 45.6 |
| 19       | 57.4 | 35.4 | 65.9 | 35.2 | 65.8 | 53.0 | 69.1 | 47.0 | 72.8 | 57.8 | 77.0 | 58.2 | 93.6 | 63.3 | 80.5 | 62.3 | 78.5 | 54.0 | 87.9 | 53.5 | 68.1 | 50.0 | 70.3 | 50.5 |
| 20       | 59.6 | 40.5 | 70.5 | 38.4 | 62.1 | 53.2 | 78.9 | 44.3 | 73.6 | 58.2 | 81.5 | 54.2 | 92.6 | 62.0 | 75.3 | 63.6 | 76.7 | 59.0 | 91.9 | 56.0 | 74.7 | 46.6 | 68.8 | 50.3 |
| 21       | 61.6 | 34.0 | 66.9 | 39.3 | 62.4 | 50.8 | 89.4 | 48.4 | 76.5 | 59.2 | 80.9 | 52.1 | 88.7 | 61.4 | 75.7 | 64.0 | 76.2 | 54.9 | 86.3 | 55.5 | 76.5 | 42.7 | 70.0 | 50.2 |
| 22       | 59.2 | 34.3 | 52.7 | 43.6 | 63.0 | 44.8 | 86.6 | 32.0 | 64.9 | 58.3 | 74.8 | 54.5 | 83.2 | 62.1 | 84.0 | 60.0 | 69.3 | 56.9 | 74.4 | 62.3 | 78.7 | 43.7 | 62.5 | 48.0 |
| 23       | 60.4 | 32.5 | 55.5 | 42.4 | 58.5 | 45.8 | 72.9 | 52.1 | 63.7 | 56.6 | 77.3 | 55.3 | 80.9 | 64.1 | 85.7 | 60.5 | 80.1 | 59.1 | 72.0 | 55.3 | 67.5 | 46.0 | 64.0 | 46.5 |
| 24       | 63.2 | 32.9 | 60.4 | 39.4 | 62.2 | 43.8 | 71.6 | 55.8 | 68.0 | 55.3 | 78.2 | 51.6 | 90.0 | 61.8 | 83.0 | 63.2 | 82.5 | 58.7 | 74.0 | 50.8 | 65.4 | 48.5 | 64.7 | 46.5 |
| 25       | 67.5 | 35.1 | 55.2 | 41.5 | 62.7 | 38.4 | 71.1 | 56.0 | 71.6 | 56.3 | 78.0 | 56.5 | 92.4 | 62.4 | 81.7 | 62.6 | 81.6 | 55.9 | 68.1 | 61.7 | 65.6 | 43.7 | 65.0 | 42.1 |
| 26       | 66.0 | 43.7 | 55.7 | 37.8 | 64.7 | 38.3 | 74.8 | 57.6 | 72.1 | 56.4 | 80.1 | 54.1 | 97.2 | 64.2 | 88.9 | 59.3 | 80.5 | 56.7 | 73.1 | 58.1 | 68.4 | 37.8 | 69.6 | 44.0 |
| 27       | 68.4 | 36.2 | 59.1 | 36.3 | 75.1 | 37.8 | 76.9 | 53.3 | 69.0 | 57.8 | 80.3 | 52.9 | 91.4 | 63.0 | 93.8 | 59.0 | 82.8 | 51.7 | 72.6 | 54.3 | 69.6 | 39.2 | 65.8 | 44.0 |
| 28       | 61.3 | 37.1 | 58.4 | 43.0 | 71.5 | 41.6 | 73.0 | 53.0 | 72.9 | 57.5 | 76.5 | 56.1 | 83.3 | 62.1 | 98.5 | 61.9 | 76.0 | 58.8 | 72.5 | 47.8 | 68.1 | 43.2 | 63.8 | 47.5 |
| 29       | 56.5 | 46.5 |      |      | 58.7 | 42.9 | 74.9 | 53.2 | 63.1 | 56.7 | 80.2 | 56.2 | 90.1 | 66.6 | 97.8 | 62.1 | 73.4 | 61.7 | 79.4 | 47.7 | 64.1 | 40.9 | 64.6 | 44.4 |
| 30       | 59.1 | 44.0 |      |      | 57.6 | 44.6 | 68.7 | 54.6 | 65.8 | 56.6 | 84.3 | 57.7 | 90.2 | 64.0 | 87.4 | 65.3 | 70.2 | 61.9 | 79.9 | 40.1 | 62.0 | 49.5 | 60.3 | 53.0 |
| 31       | 60.6 | 40.1 |      |      | 63.7 | 40.6 |      |      | 63.9 | 53.1 |      |      | 83.2 | 66.1 | 84.2 | 66.6 |      |      | 81.4 | 41.1 |      |      |      |      |
| High     | 71.3 | 79.5 | 79.4 | 89.4 | 79.0 | 84.3 | 97.2 | 98.5 | 96.0 | 95.4 | 84.2 | 76.9 |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Avg High | 61.5 | 63.6 | 63.7 | 70.2 | 70.3 | 75.1 | 87.6 | 86.7 | 80.3 | 80.7 | 73.6 | 67.9 |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Mean     | 51.2 | 50.3 | 52.6 | 57.8 | 60.5 | 64.4 | 72.6 | 73.0 | 68.8 | 65.5 | 58.1 | 54.2 |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Avg Low  | 42.2 | 38.3 | 43.9 | 47.8 | 54.4 | 56.9 | 61.3 | 62.7 | 60.9 | 54.0 | 45.2 | 43.8 |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Low      | 32.5 | 31.4 | 33.3 | 32.0 | 45.1 | 51.6 | 54.9 | 58.0 | 51.7 | 40.1 | 37.8 | 35.5 |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |

Color Key

|     |        |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |          |           |       |
|-----|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------|-----------|-------|
| < 0 | 0 - 10 | 10 - 20 | 20 - 30 | 30 - 40 | 40 - 50 | 50 - 60 | 60 - 70 | 70 - 80 | 80 - 90 | 90 - 100 | 100 - 110 | 110 > |
|-----|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------|-----------|-------|





<< 231124 vaccinated for XBB.1.5.X, which peaked 3/8/2023

<< 231204: got COVID-19, mild case, which lasted two weeks-ish

| A310 |            | f: 12/13/2023 |       |       |                  |        |       |           |           |            |           |        |           |        |            |                                     |    |
|------|------------|---------------|-------|-------|------------------|--------|-------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|--------|-----------|--------|------------|-------------------------------------|----|
|      | A          | B             | C     | D     | AE               | AF     | AG    | AH        | AI        | AJ         | AK        | AL     | AM        | AN     | AO         | AP                                  | AQ |
| 1    | Date       | Omicron       | Delta | Alpha | Recombi<br>nants | BN.1.X | XBB.X | XBB.1.5.X | XBB.1.9.X | XBB.1.16.X | XBB.2.3.X | EG.5.X | BA.2.86.X | HV.1.X | Date       | wastewaterPointLoma                 |    |
| 2275 | 9/3/2023   | 93            | 0     | 0     | 0.3              | 0      | 3.3   | 12.7      | 18.7      | 21.6       | 7.1       | 29.6   | 0         |        | 9/3/2023   |                                     |    |
| 2276 | 9/4/2023   | 92.1          | 0     | 0     | 0.5              | 0      | 5     | 14        | 18.8      | 16.7       | 4.4       | 32.8   | 0         |        | 9/4/2023   |                                     |    |
| 2277 | 9/5/2023   | 91.3          | 0     | 0     | 0.6              | 0      | 5.3   | 12        | 12.6      | 19         | 4.9       | 37     | 0         |        | 9/5/2023   |                                     |    |
| 2278 | 9/6/2023   | 93.2          | 0     | 0     | 0.3              | 0      | 3     | 13.2      | 10.8      | 19.3       | 6.7       | 40.2   | 0         |        | 9/6/2023   |                                     |    |
| 2279 | 10/8/2023  | 89.4          | 0     | 0     | 1.3              | 0      | 3.5   | 1         | 27.9      | 22.8       | 1.1       | 20     | 0         | 11.3   | 10/8/2023  |                                     |    |
| 2280 | 10/9/2023  | 86.5          | 0     | 0     | 2.9              | 0      | 5.7   | 10.3      | 15.8      | 12.3       | 2.8       | 21.1   | 0.1       | 17.7   | 10/9/2023  |                                     |    |
| 2281 | 10/10/2023 | 88.4          | 0     | 0     | 1.5              | 0      | 0.8   | 13.8      | 22.1      | 19.1       | 3.3       | 19.1   | 0         | 10     | 10/10/2023 |                                     |    |
| 2282 | 10/11/2023 | 90.3          | 0     | 0     | 2.3              | 0      | 2.2   | 6.6       | 19.3      | 13.7       | 3         | 32.2   | 0.1       | 13     | 10/11/2023 |                                     |    |
| 2283 | 10/15/2023 | 88.6          | 0     | 0     | 1.6              | 0      | 0.6   | 7.4       | 13.1      | 9.7        | 2.4       | 42.7   | 0.8       | 11.6   | 10/15/2023 |                                     |    |
| 2284 | 10/16/2023 | 81.7          | 0     | 0     | 8.9              | 0      | 2.1   | 18.5      | 6.9       | 10.5       | 0.1       | 32.7   | 0.1       | 10.8   | 10/16/2023 |                                     |    |
| 2285 | 10/17/2023 | 90.6          | 0     | 0     | 0.8              | 0      | 0.9   | 13.4      | 12.3      | 10.9       | 0.4       | 30.5   | 2         | 20.2   | 10/17/2023 |                                     |    |
| 2286 | 10/18/2023 | 86.4          | 0     | 0     | 5.4              | 0      | 1.2   | 4.3       | 21.9      | 6.3        | 0.5       | 34.5   | 2.5       | 15.3   | 10/18/2023 |                                     |    |
| 2287 | 10/22/2023 | 92.1          | 0     | 0     | 1.2              | 0      | 1.1   | 3.8       | 6.4       | 10.2       | 0.5       | 54.9   | 0.7       | 14.5   | 10/22/2023 |                                     |    |
| 2288 | 10/23/2023 | 87.3          | 0     | 0     | 5.2              | 0      | 0.5   | 5.8       | 9         | 6.2        | 1.7       | 43.4   | 1.6       | 19.1   | 10/23/2023 |                                     |    |
| 2289 | 10/24/2023 | 92.3          | 0     | 0     | 0.8              | 0      | 0.4   | 3.5       | 12.4      | 3.7        | 0.1       | 53.3   | 0.5       | 18.2   | 10/24/2023 |                                     |    |
| 2290 | 10/25/2023 | 87.7          | 0     | 0     | 3.2              | 0      | 2     | 7         | 16.7      | 10.8       | 0.4       | 26.1   | 0.3       | 24     | 10/25/2023 |                                     |    |
| 2291 | 10/29/2023 | 87.9          | 0     | 0     | 4.7              | 0      | 1.1   | 9.5       | 10.4      | 6.6        | 1         | 36     | 1.2       | 21.9   | 10/29/2023 |                                     |    |
| 2292 | 10/30/2023 | 90.9          | 0     | 0     | 1.5              | 0      | 1.4   | 5.9       | 23.9      | 8.6        | 0.1       | 22.2   | 3.9       | 24.9   | 10/30/2023 |                                     |    |
| 2293 | 10/31/2023 | 85.7          | 0     | 0     | 8.3              | 0      | 7     | 1.5       | 14.3      | 12.7       | 0         | 23.3   | 2.2       | 24.6   | 10/31/2023 |                                     |    |
| 2294 | 11/1/2023  | 90.8          | 0     | 0     | 1.6              | 0      | 1.1   | 12.6      | 20.3      | 11.5       | 0.5       | 9.9    | 2.2       | 31.4   | 11/1/2023  |                                     |    |
| 2295 | 11/5/2023  | 90.6          | 0     | 0     | 2.9              | 0      | 0.8   | 5.5       | 13.2      | 6          | 0.5       | 38.8   | 1.7       | 24.1   | 11/5/2023  |                                     |    |
| 2296 | 11/6/2023  | 90.2          | 0     | 0     | 2.2              | 0      | 1.1   | 7.1       | 21.2      | 2.6        | 0.2       | 35.7   | 0.5       | 21.6   | 11/6/2023  |                                     |    |
| 2297 | 11/7/2023  | 89.3          | 0     | 0     | 1.5              | 0      | 1.9   | 9.8       | 13.5      | 6.4        | 0.2       | 32.4   | 2.1       | 21.4   | 11/7/2023  |                                     |    |
| 2298 | 11/8/2023  | 90.4          | 0     | 0     | 0.6              | 0      | 1.7   | 18.7      | 10.4      | 5.3        | 0.7       | 30.9   | 2.2       | 20.5   | 11/8/2023  |                                     |    |
| 2299 | 11/12/2023 | 93.6          | 0     | 0     | 0.7              | 0      | 1.3   | 0.9       | 34.7      | 1.8        | 0         | 35.7   | 15.2      | 4      | 11/12/2023 |                                     |    |
| 3300 | 11/13/2023 | 94.2          | 0     | 0     | 0.2              | 0      | 0.7   | 17.5      | 4.8       | 5.4        | 0         | 41.4   | 1         | 23.3   | 11/13/2023 |                                     |    |
| 3301 | 11/14/2023 | 89            | 0     | 0     | 0.5              | 0      | 0.5   | 5.4       | 8.6       | 3.7        | 1.6       | 37.4   | 7.1       | 24.3   | 11/14/2023 |                                     |    |
| 3302 | 11/15/2023 | 90.6          | 0     | 0     | 1.1              | 0      | 1.2   | 3.4       | 9         | 10.2       | 0.4       | 36.4   | 4.3       | 25.7   | 11/15/2023 |                                     |    |
| 3303 | 12/3/2023  | 90.6          | 0     | 0     | 1.8              | 0      | 0.4   | 3.5       | 4.2       | 3.9        | 0.3       | 38.6   | 15.1      | 24.3   | 12/3/2023  | << 231124 vaccinated for XBB.1.5.X, |    |
| 3304 | 12/4/2023  | 89.4          | 0     | 0     | 2.7              | 0      | 0.2   | 2.6       | 2.8       | 1.7        | 0         | 58.6   | 10.8      | 12.7   | 12/4/2023  |                                     |    |
| 3305 | 12/5/2023  | 89            | 0     | 0     | 1.5              | 0      | 1.4   | 5.7       | 6.7       | 2.8        | 0.6       | 26.9   | 16        | 28.4   | 12/5/2023  |                                     |    |
| 3306 | 12/6/2023  | 88.8          | 0     | 0     | 1.7              | 0      | 0.3   | 5.1       | 15.5      | 1          | 0         | 40.3   | 21.4      | 5.2    | 12/6/2023  |                                     |    |
| 3307 | 12/10/2023 | 90.4          | 0     | 0     | 1.5              | 0      | 0.7   | 3         | 5.5       | 1.8        | 0.5       | 40.8   | 28.5      | 8.9    | 12/10/2023 |                                     |    |
| 3308 | 12/11/2023 | 90.3          | 0     | 0     | 1.4              | 0      | 1.1   | 2.2       | 8         | 4          | 0.7       | 39.2   | 30        | 5.1    | 12/11/2023 |                                     |    |
| 3309 | 12/12/2023 | 92.7          | 0     | 0     | 0.3              | 0      | 0     | 0.7       | 1.9       | 0.4        | 0         | 5.5    | 82.4      | 1.8    | 12/12/2023 |                                     |    |
| 3310 | 12/13/2023 | 90            | 0     | 0     | 1.6              | 0      | 0.7   | 4.9       | 6.9       | 1          | 0.4       | 39.8   | 28        | 8.4    | 12/13/2023 |                                     |    |
| 3311 |            |               |       |       |                  |        |       |           |           |            |           |        |           |        |            |                                     |    |



**Gemma Elizabeth Whelan** (born 23 April 1981) is an English actress and comedian known for portraying Yara Greyjoy in the HBO fantasy-drama series *Game of Thrones*. Whelan was born in Leeds and grew up in the Midlands. She attended The King's High School for Girls in Warwick and the London Studio Centre. As a stand-up comedian, Whelan won the 2010 Funny Women Variety Award. She also plays Kate in all seasons of the comedy *Upstart Crow*, Detective Eunice Noon on the first season of *The End of the F\*\*\*ing World* on Channel 4, and Geraldine on the third season of *Killing Eve*. In 2019, she appeared as Marian Lister in the BBC drama *Gentleman Jack*. Whelan lives in London with her husband, the comedian and actor Gerry Howell and their two children.


**Gemma Whelan**



|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| <b>Born</b>          | Gemma Elizabeth Whelan<br>23 April 1981 (age 42)<br><a href="#">Leeds, West Yorkshire, England</a> |
| <b>Occupation(s)</b> | Actress, comedian  |
| <b>Years active</b>  | 2005–present   |
| <b>Spouse</b>        | Gerry Howell   |
| <b>Children</b>      | 2  |


**Julia O'Hara Stiles** (born March 28, 1981) is an American actress. Born and raised in New York City, Stiles began acting at the age of 11 as part of New York's La MaMa Experimental Theatre Club. Stiles was born in New York City to parents Judith Newcomb Stiles, a Greenwich Village artist, and John O'Hara, a businessman. She is the oldest of three children; her siblings are John Junior and Jane (also an actress). Stiles is of English, Irish, and Italian descent. Stiles graduated from Columbia University with a degree in English literature in 2005. In college, she dated actor Joseph Gordon-Levitt and the two lived in John Jay Hall. She and actor David Harbour were in a relationship between 2011 and 2015. In 2010, she received a John Jay Award, an honorary award given annually to five alumni by the Columbia College Alumni Association for professional achievements. Stiles has also worked for Habitat for Humanity, building housing in Costa Rica, and has worked with Amnesty International to raise awareness of the harsh conditions of immigration detention of unaccompanied juveniles. In January 2004, *Marie Claire* featured Stiles's trip to see conditions at the Berks County Youth Center in Leesport, Pennsylvania. Stiles is a former vegan, occasionally eating red meat. She says she gave up veganism after she developed anemia and found it difficult to get proper nutrition while traveling. She has described herself as a feminist and wrote about the subject in *The Guardian*. She is a fan of baseball and the New York Mets. She threw the ceremonial first pitch before their May 29, 2006 game. In September 2017 Stiles married camera assistant Preston J. Cook with whom she worked on *Blackway*. They have two children.

**Julia Stiles**




|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| <b>Born</b>         | Julia O'Hara Stiles<br>March 28, 1981 (age 42)<br>New York City, U.S. |
| <b>Education</b>    | <a href="#">Columbia University</a> (BA)                              |
| <b>Occupation</b>   | Actress   |
| <b>Years active</b> | 1993–present  |
| <b>Spouse</b>       | Preston J. Cook (m. 2017)   |
| <b>Children</b>     | 2   |

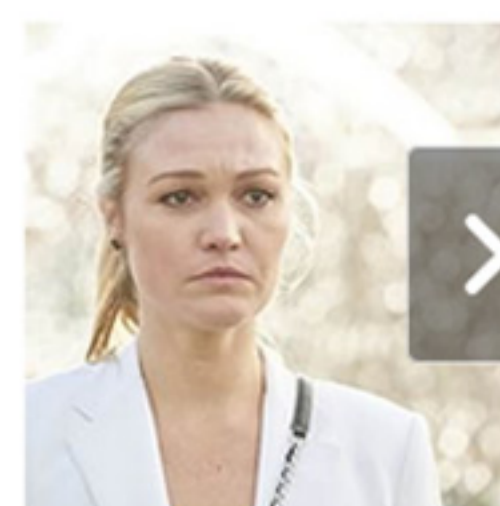
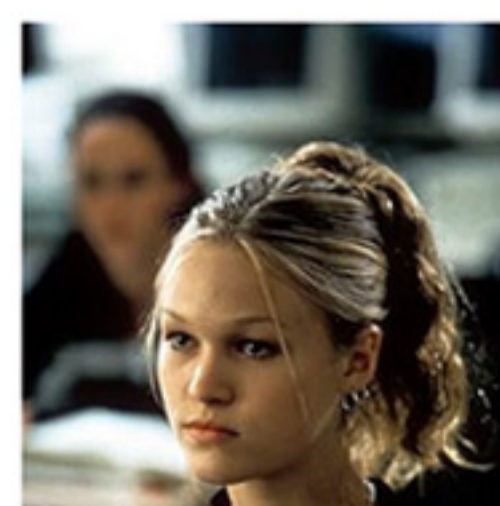
## Known for:



**Game of Thrones**  
★ 9.2 TV Series  
Yara Greyjoy  
2012–2019 • 16 eps



**10 Things I Hate About You**  
★ 7.3  
Kat Stratford  
1999





## Google settles \$5 billion privacy lawsuit over tracking people using 'incognito mode'



FILE - The Google app icon is seen on a smartphone, Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2023, in Marple Township, Pa. Google agreed Thursday, Dec. 28, to settle a \$5 billion privacy lawsuit claiming that it continued spying on people who used the "incognito" mode in its Chrome browser — along with similar "private browsing" modes in other browsers — to track their internet use. (AP Photo/Matt Slocum, File)

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Updated 5:11 PM PST, December 29, 2023

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Google has agreed to settle a \$5 billion privacy lawsuit alleging that it spied on people who used the "incognito" mode in its Chrome browser — along with similar "private" modes in other browsers — to track their internet use.**

The class-action lawsuit filed in 2020 said Google misled users into believing that it wouldn't track their internet activities while using incognito mode. It argued that **Google's advertising technologies and other techniques continued to catalog details of users' site visits and activities despite their use of supposedly "private" browsing.**

## Ex-Trump lawyer Michael Cohen says he unwittingly sent AI-generated fake legal cases to his attorney



1 of 3 | FILE - Michael Cohen leaves for a break during the civil business fraud trial of former President Donald Trump at New York Supreme Court, Tuesday, Oct. 24, 2023, in New York. Former Trump lawyer and fixer Michael Cohen says he unwittingly passed along to his attorney bogus artificial intelligence-generated legal case citations he got online before they were submitted to a New York judge. Cohen made the admission in a court filing unsealed Friday, Dec. 29, in Manhattan federal court as a judge decides whether to punish one of Cohen's lawyers, who cited the fake cases in a submission to the judge. (AP Photo/Stefan Jeremiah, File)

BY LARRY NEUMEISTER

Updated 12:10 PM PST, December 29, 2023

Cohen, who was disbarred five years ago, said in a declaration submitted to the judge on Thursday that he **found the citations by doing research through Google Bard** and was unaware that the service could generate nonexistent cases. He said he uses the internet for research because he no longer has access to formal legal-research sources.



## Federal judge blocks enforcement of Iowa's book ban law

Iowa Public Radio | By [Grant Gerlock](#)

Published December 29, 2023 at 7:23 PM CST



Dan Novack, an attorney for the publisher Penguin Random House, speaks with reporters after an injunction hearing against SF 496, an Iowa law that bans schools from having books in their libraries that include descriptions of sexual acts.

A federal judge has blocked the state of Iowa from enforcing major portions of an education law, SF 496, which has caused school districts to pull hundreds of books from library shelves. **Judge Stephen Locher said in his ruling released late Friday afternoon that the court was unable to find another school library book restriction "even remotely similar to Senate File 496."** Where lawmakers should use a scalpel, he said, SF 496 is a "bulldozer" that has pulled books out of schools that are widely regarded as important works. Locher said, "The underlying message is that there is no redeeming value to any such book even if it is a work of history, self-help guide, award-winning novel, or other piece of serious literature. In effect, the Legislature has imposed a puritanical 'pall of orthodoxy' over school libraries." The temporary injunction prevents enforcement of a ban on books with sexually explicit content, which the judge in the case said likely violates the First Amendment. It also blocks a section barring instruction relating to sexual orientation and gender identity in elementary school, which he called "void for vagueness." Enforcement provisions in the law that apply to book removals were set to take effect January 1. Gov. Kim Reynolds said she is "extremely disappointed" in the ruling. "This decision sends a strong message to the state that efforts to ban books based on LGBTQ+ content, or target speech that sends a message of inclusion to Iowa LGBTQ+ students cannot stand," said Lambda Legal attorney Nathan Maxwell. The two sections of the law covered by the injunction cannot be enforced as the lawsuits continue to work their way through the courts.

## Driverless car startup Cruise's no good, terrible year

DECEMBER 30, 2023 · 5:00 AM ET



Dara Kerr



Cruise rolled out hundreds of its robotaxis in San Francisco this year.

A year ago, the future seemed bright for the driverless car startup Cruise. As 2022 wrapped up, CEO Kyle Vogt took to Twitter to post about the company's autonomous vehicles rolling onto the streets of San Francisco, Austin and Phoenix. "Folks," he wrote, "we are entering the golden years of AV expansion." Robotaxis, which give rides to any paying customer with no driver at the wheel, were one of the latest tech products to be fully unleashed to the public this year. Dozens of companies, including Alphabet's Waymo and Amazon's Zoox, have been competing to be king. Cruise, which is owned by General Motors, was one of the fastest growing of those startups. GM had poured billions into Cruise as the company emphasized scaling up at an unprecedented pace. By August, California had given Cruise permission to run around 300 robotaxis throughout San Francisco. (Waymo deploys around 100). And the company had started testing in several more cities across the country, including Dallas, Miami, Nashville and Charlotte. **But then, in October, things took a disastrous turn.** On the night of October 2, one of Cruise's driverless cars struck a pedestrian in San Francisco leaving her critically injured and fighting for her life. Her identity has not been released. A cascade of events followed that ended with Vogt resigning and GM announcing it was pulling hundreds of millions in funding. Cruise is now facing government investigations, fines that could total millions and an uncertain future. "They were the bull in a china shop. They just kept charging ahead," says Missy Cummings, a George Mason University professor who runs the Mason Autonomy and Robotics Center. "When we sat around and discussed who was going to have the worst accident in that crowd, everyone knew it was going to be Cruise." Despite public angst over autonomous vehicles, California state regulators voted to allow the companies to expand their robotaxi services in August. That prompted the city of San Francisco to file motions with the state demanding a halt to the expansion. Seven days after the vote, a Cruise car collided with a fire truck, injuring a passenger. **"To be clear, human drivers will text, they'll be distracted. There's the saying, 'the lights are on, but nobody's home,'" Philip Koopman says. "But it turns out, that happens to robotaxis too."**



**Judge Stephen Locher** said in his ruling released late Friday afternoon that the court was unable to find another school library book restriction “even remotely similar to Senate File 496.” Where lawmakers should use a scalpel, he said, SF 496 is a “bulldozer” that has pulled books out of schools that are widely regarded as important works. “The underlying message is that there is no redeeming value to any such book even if it is a work of history, self-help guide, award-winning novel, or other piece of serious literature,” Locher wrote. “In effect, the Legislature has imposed a puritanical ‘pall of orthodoxy’ over school libraries.”



Dan Novack, an attorney for the publisher Penguin Random House, speaks with reporters after an injunction hearing against SF 496, an Iowa law that bans schools from having books in their libraries that include descriptions of sexual acts.



Enable accessibility **EVEN WHEN THE NEWS IS FREE, JOURNALISM IS NOT. SUPPORT INDEPENDENT, FACT-BASED JOURNALISM.** AP Logo World U.S. Politics Sports Entertainment Business Science Fact Check Oddities Health Video Climate ... Israel-Hamas war Tom Wilkinson dies at 75 New Year 2024 Paula Abdul lawsuit Cowboys beat Lions Fireworks burst from the Sky Tower in Auckland, New Zealand, to celebrate the New Year on Monday, Jan. 1, 2024. (Hayden Woodward/New Zealand Herald via AP) New Zealand's Auckland is the first major city to ring in 2024 as war shadows celebrations elsewhere Auckland has become the first major city to ring in 2024, with thousands cheering a fireworks display sprouting from New Zealand's tallest structure, Sky Tower, and a downtown light show. **READ MORE** At the stroke of midnight, the New Year gives a clean slate for long-elusive resolutions Revelers prepare to pack into Times Square for annual New Year's Eve ball drop Here's the list of stores open and closed on New Year's Day 2024 Palestinians load the bodies of their relatives killed in the Israeli bombardment of the Gaza Strip on a truck in Deir al Balah, Gaza Strip, Sunday, Dec. 31, 2023. (AP Photo/Adel Hana) Israeli strikes in central Gaza kill at least 35 as Netanyahu says war will continue for months 41 mins ago **FILE** - A 20mm Phalanx CIWS weapons defense cannon is mounted on the U.S. Navy destroyer USS Gravelly on March 14, 2023. The U.S. military said Sunday Dec. 31, 2023 it shot down two anti-ship ballistic missiles fired toward a container ship by Yemen's Houthi rebels in the Red Sea. A contract-embarked security team on the ship returned fire, the central command said. U.S. helicopters from the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower aircraft carrier and GRAVELLY responded to the distress call and while issuing verbal warnings to the attackers, the small boat crews opened fire on the helicopters using small arms, the statement said. (AP Photo/John C. Clark, File) US forces shoot down ballistic missiles in Red Sea, kill gunmen in attack by Yemen's Houthi rebels In this photo provided by the Ukrainian Emergency Service, an apartment building hit by a Russian missile is seen in Kharkiv, Ukraine, Saturday, Dec. 30, 2023. (Ukrainian Emergency Service via AP) Russia launches fresh drone strikes on Ukraine after promising retaliation for Belgorod attack **FILE** - Paula Abdul arrives at the 57th Annual CMA Awards on Nov. 8, 2023, at the Bridgestone Arena in Nashville, Tenn. Abdul has accused former "American Idol" producer Nigel Lythgoe of sexually assaulting her in the early 2000s when she was a judge on the reality competition show, according to a new lawsuit filed Friday, Dec. 29, 2023. (Photo by Evan Agostini/Invision/AP, File) Paula Abdul accuses 'American Idol' producer Nigel Lythgoe of sexual assault in lawsuit **FILE** - In this screenshot from a livestream broadcast by the State of Illinois, Gov. J.B. Pritzker signs a bill, June 12, 2023, at Harold Washington Library's Thomas Hughes Children's Library in downtown Chicago. The law will require the state's libraries to uphold a pledge not to ban material because of partisan disapproval, starting Monday, Jan. 1, 2024. If they refuse, they will not receive state funding. (State of Illinois via AP, File) Laws banning semi-automatic weapons and library censorship will take effect in Illinois **FILE** - A roll of police tape is left on the windshield of a Los Angeles County sheriff's vehicle in the parking lot of its training academy in Whittier, Calif., Nov. 16, 2022. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department released body camera footage on Friday, Dec. 29, showing a fatal shooting of a 27-year-old Black woman who had called to report domestic violence in early December. (AP Photo/Jae C. Hong, File) Los Angeles County sheriff releases video of fatal shooting of woman who reported domestic violence **FILE** - Maine Secretary of State Shenna Bellows speaks at the inauguration of Gov. Janet Mills, Jan. 4, 2023, at the Civic Center in Augusta, Maine. A swatting call was made



**World population up 75 million this year, standing at 8 billion on Jan. 1**

... A man called emergency services saying he broke into a house in Manchester, Maine, which turned out to be Bellows' home. No officers found nothing suspicious. (AP Photo/Robert F. Bukaty, File) Maine state official who removed Trump from ballot was targeted by the North Korean government, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un delivers a speech during a year-end plenary meeting of the government. The content of this image is as provided and cannot be independently verified. Korean language watermark on image is the abbreviation for Korean Central News Agency. (Korean Central News Agency/Korea News Service via AP) North Korea's Kim Jong Un vows to produce more nuclear materials in 2024 Dallas Cowboys quarterback Dak Prescott (4) reacts with offensive tackle Terence Steele (78) after a sack by Detroit Lions during the second half of an NFL football game, Saturday, Dec. 30, 2023, in Arlington, Texas. (AP Photo/Sam Hodde) Cowboys win to extend home win streak to 16 Latest videos Ways to ensure you stick to your New Year's resolutions From the first spray of fireworks to 366 days into the future — 2024 is a leap year — this could be the year for finally achieving long-elusive goals, fulfilling aspirational resolutions. Watch More Widespread devastation as more than 20 killed as Israel airstrike destroys residential building in Rafah (AP Photo/Ariel Garcia Bernal) Ariel Garcia Bernal on stepping into the lucha libre ring for 'Cassandra' Discover Take AP's 2023 news quiz to see which key events you remember. Do you remember this year's major stories? Take this quiz to find out Test your knowledge of 2023 with AP's year-end news quiz. **FILE** - An actor dressed as Mickey Mouse greets visitors at the entrance to Magic Kingdom Park at Walt Disney World Resort, April 18, 2022, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. The earliest version of Disney's most famous character, Mickey Mouse, and arguably the most iconic character in American pop culture, will become public domain on Jan. 1, 2024. (AP Photo/Ted Shaffrey, File) Mickey Mouse will soon belong to you and me — with some caveats Visitors walk through the snow in Goyang, South Korea, Saturday, Dec. 30, 2023. South Korean Meteorological Administration issued a heavy snow advisory for some parts of the Korea peninsula. (AP Photo/Lee Jin-man) South Korea's capital records heaviest single-day snowfall in December for 40 years A boy drives a motorcycle in front of a mural of the Venezuelan map with the Essequibo territory included in the 23 de Enero neighborhood of Caracas, Venezuela, Monday, Dec. 11, 2023. Leaders of Guyana and Venezuela are preparing to meet this week to address an escalating dispute over the Essequibo region that is rich in oil and minerals. (AP Photo/Matias Delacroix) Venezuela says troops will stay deployed until British military vessel leaves waters off Guyana Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones, left, talks with Pro Football Hall of Fame coach Jimmy Johnson after Johnson was inducted into the team's ring of honor during a ceremony at halftime of an NFL football game against the Detroit Lions, Saturday, Dec. 30, 2023, in Arlington, Texas. (AP Photo/Sam Hodde) Jimmy Johnson joins Cowboys' ring of honor 30 years after ugly split with Jerry Jones Weekend





SURVEILLANCE

DECEMBER 28, 2023

# One of the Most Controversial US Spy Programs Just Got Quietly Renewed

*Congress blew a rare bipartisan chance to protect Americans' calls and texts.*



**NINA WANG**

Fellow

[Bio](#)



Mother Jones; Unsplash

On December 22, President Joe Biden signed a \$886 billion defense bill that renewed one of the US government's most controversial spy programs. Tucked in the 3,000-page legislation is an extension of the administration's power to warrantlessly surveil foreigners overseas, and snoop on Americans in the process. The authority, known as Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence and Surveillance Act (FISA), has been the subject of intense scrutiny over the past few months. Set to expire on December 31, in the weeks leading up to that date, lawmakers were still in heated debates over whether and how to allow it to continue. But these conversations were halted after Congress and the Biden administration squeezed a short-term extension of the spy program through the annual defense bill, potentially keeping it in effect until 2025. Many civil liberties advocates are criticizing the extension, saying that it skirts a rare, bipartisan push to protect Americans' privacy. This stopgap measure, they argue, kicks a crucial debate on government spying into the new year—or beyond. In the meantime, it allows federal authorities to hold onto a power that they've routinely abused. "Abuses and civil liberties violations are going to continue at a completely unacceptable rate." "It's tragic," says Elizabeth Goitein, senior director of the Brennan Center for Justice's Liberty and National Security program. "Abuses and civil liberties violations are going to continue at a completely unacceptable rate," she adds. "For every day, every week, every month that Section 702 continues without reform, that is what's happening." Under Section 702 of FISA, federal investigators do not need a warrant to tap the phone calls, texts, and emails of foreigners outside of the country. But a loophole also lets them access messages that Americans exchange with targets abroad. These communications are funneled into a database that investigators can later search, again without a warrant. Numerous reports have documented the FBI's "persistent and widespread" misuse of this authority to spy on Americans, running unauthorized searches on Black Lives Matter protesters, for instance, or January 6 rioters, and even a US senator. In 2021, the FBI conducted about 3 million so-called "backdoor searches" on US residents. Last year, amid pressure from lawmakers and advocates to curb warrantless spying on Americans, that number dropped to about 119,000. Still, the extent of this intrusion was troubling enough to spark a reform push from Republicans and Democrats. Earlier this month, Rep. Andy Biggs (R-Ariz.) introduced a bipartisan bill to renew a version of Section 702 with key changes, including a warrant requirement for law enforcement to pull Americans' communications. It sailed through the notoriously divided House Judiciary Committee with support from both sides of the aisle. Before leaving for winter recess, the House was set to vote between advancing Rep. Biggs' proposal or a competing bipartisan effort sponsored by Rep. Mike Turner (R-Ohio), which experts said would broaden Section 702 surveillance powers. But many lawmakers didn't want to rush the vote. Instead, they opted to temporarily extend the spy program through the 2024 National Defense Authorization Act, an annual measure that sets funding and policy priorities for the Pentagon. According to House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.), who had tacked the extension onto the NDAA in the first place, this move buys "necessary time to facilitate the reform process."





### Transcript

- 4:35 coming from the Israeli government makes any sense or is justified.
- 4:40 War crimes are war crimes.
- 4:41 You can't just turn a blind eye to war crimes, because a government you like or
- 4:45 a country you like is carrying them out and
- 4:48 that seems to be the case with some portion of the population at the moment.

English (United States)

## Dave Chappelle Prompts Walkout, Heckling After Talking About Gaza Deaths

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469,684 views Oct 23, 2023 #TheYoungTurks #BreakingNews #TYT

**Dave Chappelle** criticized America's support of Israel's bombing of bombing during a show at TD Garden in Boston. Cenk Uygur and Ana Kasparian discuss on The Young Turks.

"Dave Chappelle criticized Israel's bombing of Gaza at a performance in Boston in which the comedian accused the U.S. of aiding the slaughter of innocent civilians. In the show at TD Garden on Thursday, Chappelle first condemned the Oct. 7 attack on Israel by Hamas militants, but criticized what he said were war crimes in Gaza, according to people in attendance. The comments came up when Chappelle said he didn't think students should lose job offers for supporting Palestinians. An audience member's command for the comedian to shut up drew an emotional response from Chappelle, who criticized the Israeli government for cutting off water and other essentials to Gaza and accused it of killing innocent people, according to the attendees."

I saw Dave Chappell last night at Boston TD Garden. It was sold out so I would say 22,000 people there. 3/4 into the show he said "I want to address what's going on in Palestine and Israel...what happened on October 7 wasn't right but also what's going on isn't right and not just. You can't kill innocent civilians like that and the whole world sits silently and watches." Then someone shouted at him from the crowd "Shut the F\*\*\* up Dave."

Suhair Nafal  
attendee

Facebook

"No, you shut the F\*\*\* up. You don't take tens of billions from my country to go kill innocent women and children and come and tell me to shut the F\*\*\* up. Don't come begging for money from my country and then go drop bombs on children and cut off innocent people's water and electricity. You have the audacity to pay to come see me and then tell me "Shut the F\*\*\* up." No, you shut the F\*\*\* up."

Alleged account of Dave Chappelle from attendee Suhair Nafal

Facebook





WSJ

2 months ago ★

## Dave Chappelle Criticizes Israel, Spars With Crowd at Boston Show

By Sabrina Siddiqui



Dave Chappelle performed last year in Washington, D.C. (GEMENU)

Dave Chappelle criticized Israel's bombing of Gaza at a performance in Boston in which the comedian accused the U.S. of aiding the slaughter of innocent civilians. In the show at TD Garden on Thursday, Chappelle first condemned the Oct. 7 attack on Israel by Hamas militants, but criticized what he said were war crimes in Gaza, according to people in attendance.

The comments came up when Chappelle said he didn't think students should lose job offers for supporting Palestinians. An audience member's command for the comedian to shut up drew an emotional response from Chappelle, who criticized the Israeli government for cutting off water and other essentials to Gaza and accused it of killing innocent people, according to the attendees.



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## Report: Some walked out of Dave Chappelle's Boston show over Israel comments

The comedian reportedly criticized what he described as war crimes in Gaza, prompting mixed cries of "Free Palestine" and "What about Hamas?" from the audience.



Comedian Dave Chappelle. *Gerald Herbert/Associated Press,*



Russian lady tells everything like there's no tomorrow

[https://youtu.be/h\\_LMdoCuSRM](https://youtu.be/h_LMdoCuSRM)

995,271 views Dec 27, 2023

What's your name?  
**Vera Ivanovna**

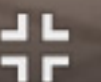
Sunday, December 31, 2023

**It cannot be called elections!  
It's a nonsense! Results are already known!  
Everyone already knows the result!  
Are our people so idiotic, so slave-like?!**

**Why young people are silent?!**



0:00 / 4:04







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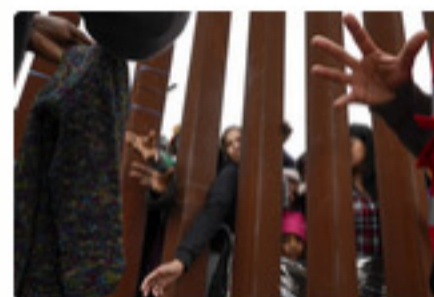


Israel-Hamas war Can Trump still run for president? NYE store hours Missouri beat Ohio Kathy Griffin divorce

See more of AP's best photos of 2023



1 of 10 | Nina Gonchar, 93, sits in her house, which was mostly destroyed by Russian forces, in the village of Bogorodychne, Ukraine, on Jan. 7, 2023, shortly after the village was retaken by the Ukrainian army. Gonchar's son Vasyliy and his wife Liubov were killed by Russian shelling on July 10, 2022. (AP Photo/Evgeniy Maloletka)



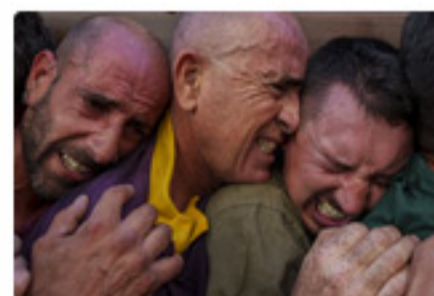
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2023 was marked by coups and a Moroccan earthquake on the African continent



2023 images show violence and vibrance in Latin America



An earthquake, a shipwreck and a king's coronation are among Europe's views in 2023



In 2023, calamities of war and disaster were unleashed again on an unsettled Middle East



AP photos reveal intensity, insecurity and inequality as climate change alters the world







**Nina Gonchar**, 93, sits in her house, which was mostly destroyed by Russian forces, in the village of Bogorodychne, Ukraine, on Jan. 7, 2023, shortly after the village was retaken by the Ukrainian army. Gonchar's son Vasyliy and his wife Liubov were killed by Russian shelling on July 10, 2022. (AP Photo/Evgeniy Maloletka)"



lovepeace